

263

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No.       , 1918.

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## A BILL

To provide for the education of young persons up to a certain standard, and for the establishment of continuation schools; to amend the Acts relating to public instruction; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto.

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**B**E, it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

*Preliminary.*

**1.** (1) This Act may be cited as the "Public Short title. Instruction (Continuation Schools) Act, 1918," and shall be construed with the Public Instruction Act of 1880.

(2) This Act shall commence and come into force on the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen. Commence-  
ment.

**2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— Definitions.

“Continuation school” means a school established under the provisions of this Act to provide for the continued instruction of young persons after completing the primary school course.

“District” means a continuation school district proclaimed under this Act.

“Minister” means the Minister of Public Instruction.

“Prescribed” means prescribed by this Act, or regulations made hereunder.

“The court” means the Children’s Court established under the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act, 1905, and includes a magistrate or justices exercising the jurisdiction of a children’s court.

“Uncontrollable child” means a child whom his parents or guardian cannot control.

*Continuation schools.*

**3.** (1) The Minister may establish and maintain continuation schools for the purpose of giving young persons a training in the obligations of citizenship and instruction suitable for commercial, industrial, domestic, and other occupations. Continuation  
schools and  
their objects.

(2) A continuation school shall provide not less than six hours instruction weekly for not less than thirty-three weeks in each year, in such subjects as the Minister may direct. Such instruction shall not extend beyond six o’clock in the evening of any one day.

(3) The Minister may close any such school either temporarily or for a stated period.

**4.** The Governor may by proclamation in the Gazette proclaim any district in which a continuation school has been established, a continuation school district, and may in like manner alter the boundaries of any such district; provided that no part of such district shall be more than three miles distant from the school. Continuation  
school  
districts.

**5.**

1265

5. (1) When any district has been proclaimed the parent or guardian of any young person under sixteen years of age resident in such district, and who is no longer under any obligation to attend a primary school, shall cause such young person to attend the continuation school of the district, or advanced classes in a full-time day school, or a school giving part-time instruction which the Minister considers to be equivalent to that given in the continuation school, for not less than sixty-six hours in each school-term of eleven weeks, unless such young person is certified in the manner prescribed by an officer appointed by the Minister to have attained the standard of education hereinafter prescribed.

Parents and guardian's duties.

(2) Any parent or guardian who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be liable to a penalty of not less than *five* shillings nor more than *two* pounds, unless he proves—

- (a) that the young person is prevented from such attendance by sickness, temporary or permanent injury or infirmity, or some other sufficient cause; or
- (b) the sanction for non-attendance has been granted by the Minister; or
- (c) that the young person is an uncontrollable child.

*Prescribed standard and mode of determination.*

6. (1) The standard of education required under this Act shall be that prescribed under the Public Instruction Act of 1880 for eighth-class in the course of instruction for public schools or any standard equivalent thereto.

Standard.

(2) The mode of determining that the pupil has reached that standard shall be by the records of the pupil's work and the tests of proficiency that are from time to time applied during the course of his attendance.

Mode of determination.

(3) The possession of any of the following certificates shall be evidence that the required standard of education has been reached :—

Certificates.

- (a) The intermediate certificate ;
- (b) the superior public school certificate ;

(c)

- (c) the continuation school certificate; or
- (d) a certificate issued by an inspector of schools that the young person has been in regular attendance upon advanced courses for at least two years, and has passed an examination in not less than four subjects of the series of studies taken during that period.

*Employment of young persons during school hours prohibited.*

7. (1) Any parent, guardian, or person who knowingly employs in any trade, business, work, or occupation carried on for the purposes of gain any young person whose attendance at a school is required under this Act, shall allow such young person to be absent from his employment during such times as may be prescribed in order to enable him or her to attend such school.

Employers to allow young persons time off to attend school.

(2) If any parent, guardian, or person fails to comply with any of the above provisions he shall be liable, on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding *two* pounds, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence to a penalty not exceeding *five* pounds, and not less than *two* pounds for any such offence.

Penalty.

(3) Where a young person is employed in a factory as defined in the Factories and Shops Act, 1912, the time during which he or she attends a school in any week in pursuance of the requirements of this Act, shall, for the purposes of section forty-three of the said Factories and Shops Act, 1912, be deemed to be time in which the young person is employed in the factory.

Time at school to be counted as time employed in factory.

*Register of attendances.*

8. The principal of a continuation school shall—

- (a) keep a register of all pupils in attendance at such school, showing the age of the pupil in years and months, the occupation of the pupil, the name and address of the pupil's employer, if any, and the name and address of the pupil's parent;

Register.

(b)

- (b) furnish to the employer of each such pupil, or <sup>Report.</sup> to the parent if the pupil is not in employment, a monthly report showing the attendance of such pupil at the school, the pupil's progress in the studies of the school, and such other information as the Minister may from time to time direct.

*Maintenance of discipline.*

**9.** In order to maintain proper conduct in the <sup>Discipline.</sup> management of continuation schools, reports of any serious breach of the good order and decorum of the school shall be forwarded by the principal of such school both to the parent and employer of any young person offending, and in the event of the continuation of such conduct the offender shall be charged before the court, which may impose a fine not exceeding *five* shillings, or may deal with the young person as an uncontrollable child.

*The Governor to make regulations.*

**10.** The Governor may make regulations generally <sup>Regulations.</sup> for carrying out the provisions of this Act, and in particular—

- (a) providing for the subjects and groups of subjects of instruction necessary to be studied in various schools ;
- (b) prescribing the nature of the records and tests of progress to be applied ;
- (c) providing for any other such measures as are necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

The provisions of the Principal Act in respect of regulations made thereunder shall apply in respect of regulations made under this Act.

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