



New South Wales

Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Amendment (Redistributions) Bill 2012

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

The *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Further Amendment Bill 2012* is cognate with this Bill.

Overview of Bill

Section 28 of the *Constitution Act 1902* provides that, in any distribution of New South Wales into electoral districts for the purposes of elections for the Legislative Assembly, the boundaries are to be determined so that there are an equal number of voters in each electorate at the time the distribution is made, but with a margin of allowance not exceeding 10%. Section 17A of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* sets out criteria for carrying out a distribution and includes the additional requirement that the Electoral Districts Commissioners have regard to demographic trends and as far as practicable endeavour to ensure that, at the time of the next scheduled State general election, the number of voters in each electorate will be equal, but with a margin of allowance not exceeding 3% (subject to compliance with the requirements of section 28 of the *Constitution Act 1902* in relation to an equal number of voters in electorates at the time the distribution is made, within the 10% margin of allowance).

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The object of this Bill is to amend the additional criteria in relation to the equal number of voters at the next general election based on demographic trends to increase the margin of allowance from 3% to 10%.

A redistribution of electoral districts is generally required by section 27 of the *Constitution Act 1902* to be carried out after every second general election and under section 28A of that Act if more than a quarter of the electoral districts have ceased to have an equal number of voters by a margin of allowance that exceeds 5%. The last redistribution of electoral districts was carried out in 2004.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Clause 3 amends section 17A of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* to give effect to the proposal set out in the above Overview.