

Legislative Council.

59^o VICTORIÆ, 1896.

A BILL

To amend an Act to establish a system of Boarding-out
Children.

[SIR ARTHUR RENWICK ;—11 *June*, 1896.]

BE it enacted by the Queen'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:—

5 1. The age at which children are retained under the provisions of the Principal Act shall be extended to fourteen years at the discretion of the board. Age for apprenticeship.

2. It shall be lawful for the Governor to frame regulations from time to time— Regulations.

- 10 (i) exempting any boarded-out child from apprenticeship ;
 (ii) prescribing the terms and conditions of indentures of apprenticeship of boarded-out children, with power to transfer such apprentices or to cancel their indentures in case of ill-treatment of the children, or for other sufficient cause ;
15 (iii) authorising the board to deduct from payments due to apprentices in the event of misconduct, and generally for the purpose of enabling the board to carry out the objects of the Principal Act and of this Act in regard to apprenticed children.

And all such regulations, upon publication in the *Gazette*, shall have the full force of law, and shall be laid before Parliament within fourteen days after the making thereof, if Parliament be then in Session, and if not, within fourteen days after the then next ensuing Session of Parliament.

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Extension of period of supervision.

3. The board shall have power to supervise all children for two years after their official period of boarding-out, adoption, or apprenticeship shall have terminated.

Penalty for withdrawing, harbouring, &c., apprentices.

4. If any person shall directly or indirectly withdraw from, counsel, or induce any apprentice under this Act to abscond from the person to whom such apprentice is indentured before the expiration of his term of apprenticeship, or knowing any apprentice to have so withdrawn or to have so absconded shall harbour or conceal such child or prevent him from returning to the person to whom he was apprenticed or to the place of his original detention (as the case may be) such person shall be liable for any such offence to a penalty not exceeding *twenty* pounds, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding *two* months.

Power of arrest of absconding apprentices, &c.

5. It shall be lawful for a boarding-out officer or the police to arrest without warrant any absconding apprentice or boarded-out or adopted child who may have been illegally removed by parents or other persons from the control of the legal guardian under the provisions of the Principal Act.

Money and other property of State children to be controlled by board.

6. All moneys and other property to which children boarded-out, adopted, or apprenticed under the Principal Act or this Act shall be entitled shall be placed to a separate fund, and shall be under the control of the board for the benefit and maintenance of such children.

Payment for outfits by parents on restoration of their children.

7. At the discretion of the board parents on the restoration of their children may be compelled to pay the value of their outfits.

Power to compel payment for neglect of care of outfits by guardians.

8. It shall be lawful for the board to deduct from the payments due to the guardians such amounts as may be deemed equivalent to the loss occasioned by their neglect to keep outfits up to regulation standard.

Parents to have no further control of children after adoption.

9. Whenever a child is surrendered by his or her parents for adoption under the provisions of the Principal Act such parents shall have no further control over such child, except by the consent of the board.

Deserving widows and deserted wives may have their children boarded-out to them.

10. It shall be lawful for the board to board-out to deserving widows and deserted wives their own children under the provisions of the Principal Act.

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Children placed in cottage homes or hospitals.

11. It shall be lawful for the board to place invalid or sick children under its control in cottage homes in approved localities, and to make the necessary regulations for their management. And in the case of serious illness of any State child such child shall be admitted free of charge into any hospital wholly or partially supported by the State.

Prosecution of defaulting parents.

12. The board shall have power to proceed legally against all parents for the maintenance of their children when satisfied that they are in a position to pay for such maintenance.

The like in the case of illegitimate children.

13. The board may proceed legally against the parents of illegitimate children for the recovery of maintenance money; the father and the mother to be liable jointly or severally. In the case of illegitimate children who come under the control of the board the mother may be required to make a declaration as to the parentage of such children. Any person making a false declaration or refusing to make such declaration to be liable to a penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding *three* years.

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14. Every offence against this Act may be prosecuted, and every penalty or punishment in respect thereof be imposed before and by any stipendiary or police magistrate or any two justices in a summary way upon the complaint of any constable or householder or person authorised by the board. Offences how prosecuted.

15. This Act may be cited as the "State Children Relief Act of 1881 Amendment Act of 1896." In its construction the words "Principal Act" mean the Act forty-fourth Victoria number twenty-four, being an Act to establish a system of boarding-out children; and the expression "apprentice" means any boarded-out child under articles of indenture under the provisions of this or the Principal Act. Short title and interpretation.

