

1923-4.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Read 1° 14th May, 1924.

(Brought from the Senate.)

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT

To amend the *Northern Territory Representation Act 1922.*

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows:—

- 1.—(1.) This Act may be cited as the *Northern Territory Representation Act 1924.* Short title and citation.
- (2.) The *Northern Territory Representation Act 1922* is in this Act referred to as the Principal Act.
- (3.) The Principal Act, as amended by this Act, may be cited as the *Northern Territory Representation Act 1922-1924.*

- 10 **2.** After section eight of the Principal Act, the following section is inserted:—

- “8A.—(1.) Any petition disputing an election under this Act may be lodged with the Registrar of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory at Darwin, and, upon being so lodged, shall, for the purposes of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918-1922* and the regulations thereunder, be deemed to be duly filed. Lodging and hearing of petitions.
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- “ (2.) Upon a petition being lodged in pursuance of this section, the Registrar of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory shall forthwith telegraph the petition, together with his certificate that it is duly signed and witnessed and that the required deposit has been lodged, to the Principal Registrar of the High Court.
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[C.72]—380/14.5.1924.—F.12774.—M.

“ (3.) Upon

“(3.) Upon an application being made by a party to the petition, the High Court shall have jurisdiction—

(a) to hear the petition ; or

(b) to refer the petition for hearing to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory,

and may take such other action as in the circumstances it deems necessary.

“(4.) If the High Court decides to hear the petition it may proceed to do so upon the petition as telegraphed in pursuance of sub-section (2.) of this section and the original petition shall be forwarded to the Principal Registrar of the High Court by the Registrar of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

“(5.) If the High Court refers the petition for hearing to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory that Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide the petition.

“(6.) A reference in pursuance of paragraph (b) of sub-section (3.) of this section may be made by telegraph and the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory may proceed upon the reference so telegraphed.

“(7.) An appeal shall lie from the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory to the High Court against the decision of the Supreme Court upon any question of law or of mixed law and fact, arising in connexion with a petition heard by the Supreme Court.”.