

1925.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Read 1° 14th May, 1924.

Proceedings interrupted by the Prorogation, Session 1923-24 ;
resumed by order made 26th June, 1925.

*(Brought from the Senate.)**(As read a third time.)*

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 :—

5 1.—(1.) This Act may be cited as the *Northern Territory Representation Act 1925.* 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 1922-1925.*

10 1A. Section four of the Principal Act is amended by omitting therefrom the words "the member representing the Northern Territory" and inserting in their stead the words "members of the House of Representatives". Qualifications of member for the Northern Territory.

15 1B. Section eight of the Principal Act is amended by omitting the words "A member representing the Northern Territory shall be elected at" and inserting in their stead the words "An election of a member representing the Northern Territory shall be held as nearly as practicable at the same time as". Time at which election to be held.

Lodging and
hearing of
petitions.

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 Clerk 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. 5

“ (2.) Upon a petition being lodged in pursuance of this section, the Clerk 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. 10

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

(a) to hear the petition ; or 15

(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 Clerk of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. 20

“ (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. 25

“ (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. 30

“ (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.”