



Remuneration Authority Legislation Bill

82—1

Report of the Justice Committee

April 2022

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Ginny Andersen
Chairperson

Remuneration Authority Legislation Bill

Recommendation

The Justice Committee has examined the Remuneration Authority Legislation Bill and recommends that it be passed.

About the bill as introduced

This omnibus bill would amend the Remuneration Authority Act 1977 and six other Acts. It seeks to transfer responsibility for determining the remuneration of certain judicial and statutory officers to the Remuneration Authority. Their remuneration is currently determined under the Cabinet Fees Framework.

Six groups of officers would be affected by the bill. They are:

- Referees of the Disputes Tribunal
- Community Magistrates of the District Court
- the Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the Human Rights Review Tribunal
- Members and Deputy Chairs of the Immigration and Protection Tribunal
- Tenancy Adjudicators of the Tenancy Tribunal
- Environment Commissioners and Deputy Environment Commissioners of the Environment Court.

The proposed transfer of responsibility for determining their remuneration recognises that the six groups of officers need to have, and to be seen to have, independence from the Executive in performing their functions.

The bill would also create five Permanent Legislative Authorities (PLAs) to fund the remuneration of these officers. These are needed because the Government would not be determining their remuneration.

Legislative scrutiny

As part of our consideration of the bill, we have examined its consistency with principles of legislative quality. We have no issues regarding the legislation's design to bring to the attention of the House.

Submissions received

We received four written submissions and heard one joint oral submission. Those who submitted on the bill's policy were supportive of the bill.

No amendments to propose

We support the bill proceeding as introduced, and have no further matters to bring to the attention of the House.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The Remuneration Authority Legislation Bill was referred to the committee on 26 October 2021. The closing date for submissions was 17 December 2021. We received and considered four submissions from interested groups and individuals. We heard one oral submission.

We received advice on the bill from the Ministry of Justice—Te Tāhū o te Ture. The Office of the Clerk provided advice on the bill's legislative quality. The Parliamentary Counsel Office was available to assist with legal drafting.

Committee members

Ginny Andersen (Chairperson)
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Dr Emily Henderson
Hon Mark Mitchell
Nicole McKee
Simon O'Connor
Willow-Jean Prime
Vanushi Walters
Arena Williams

Advice and evidence received

The documents that we received as advice and evidence are available on the Parliament website, www.parliament.nz.

Recordings of our hearing

Recordings of our hearings can be viewed on the Parliament Vimeo webpage:

[17 February 2022: Remuneration Authority Legislation Bill—hearing of evidence.](#)