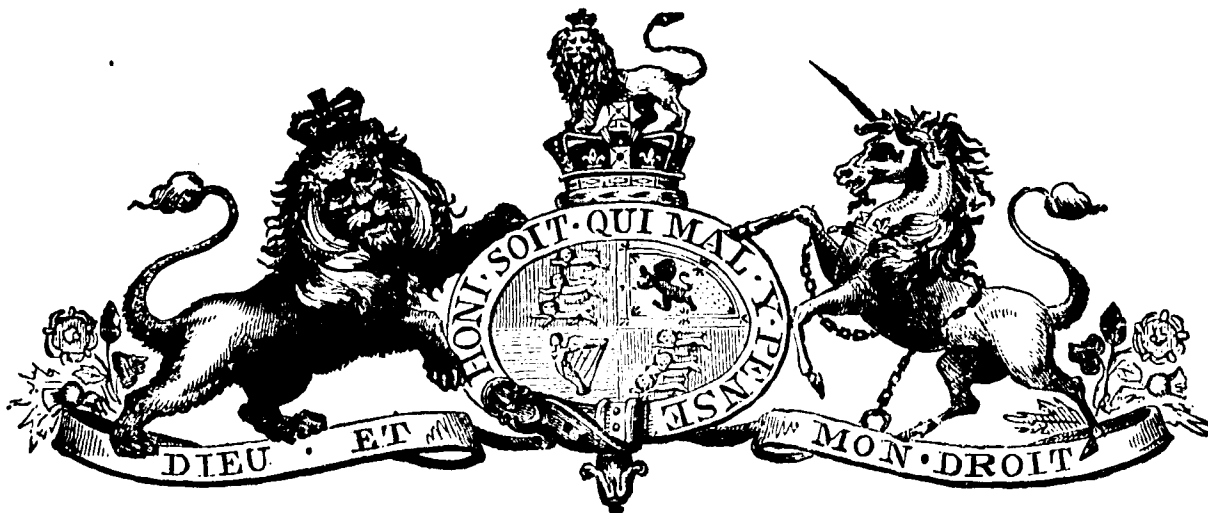


VICTORIA.



ANNO NONO

EDWARDI SEPTIMI REGIS.

No. 2185.

An Act to provide for Adult Suffrage.

[Reserved 1st December, 1908. Royal Assent proclaimed 31st March, 1909.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Victoria in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows (that is to say) :—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Adult Suffrage Act 1908*.

Short title.

2. This Act shall be construed as one with *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890*, and the said Act and any Acts amending the same and this Act may be cited together as *The Constitution Act Amendment Acts*.

Construction and citation.
No. 1075.

3. (1) In section forty-three and all subsequent sections in Part III. and in section twenty-nine of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890* and in section one hundred and twenty-eight and all subsequent sections in Part IV. of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890* and also in the *Purification of Rolls Act 1891* and any Act amending the same and also in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act*

Women may vote at Legislative Council and Assembly elections.
No. 1075 ss. 43 to 120, 128 to 203.
No. 1242 ss. 15, 26.
Nos. 1306, 1524, 1601, 1701, 1864.

1893

1893 and also in the *Melbourne and Geelong Parliamentary Elections Act 1897* and also in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1898* and any Act amending the same and also in *The Constitution Act 1903*—

- (a) the word "male" wherever it occurs in reference to electors or to procedure for becoming electors shall be repealed; and
- (b) the word "person" wherever it occurs in reference to electors or to procedure for becoming electors shall be deemed to include women whether married or single; and
- (c) generally all words importing or applicable to the masculine gender shall where used in reference to electors or to procedure for becoming electors be deemed to include females.

See No. 1242 s. 13.

(2) In any certificates in the form contained in the Nineteenth Schedule to the said first-mentioned Act for the word "manhood" wherever it occurs the word "womanhood" shall be substituted when an elector's right is issued to a woman whether married or single.

Application to women of references in Acts, e.g. No. 1075 Part V. ss. 220, 237, &c. No. 1079 s. 294. Nos. 1606, 1701. Com. Act No. 19 of 1902 s. 144.

4. Where in any Act whatsoever whether passed before or after the commencement of this Act any reference is made to persons voters or electors entitled claiming or attempting to vote or to become electors (as the case may be) or voting at parliamentary elections such reference shall so far as is consistent with this Act be deemed and taken to extend to women whether married or single, and no female elector shall be disqualified from voting under the name appearing on the roll because her surname has been changed by marriage.

Effect of coverture. No. 1893 s. 71 (c)

5. No married woman shall by reason of coverture only be disqualified from being enrolled or be deemed incapable of exercising any rights with respect to voting which are conferred by this Act.

MELBOURNE:

By Authority: J. KEMP, Government Printer.