

(No. 92.)



1885.

---

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

---

**PUBLIC HEALTH BILL, 1885, [No. 7.]:**

**PETITION AGAINST CERTAIN PROVISIONS.**

---

Presented by Mr. Scott, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
August 13, 1885.



To the Honorable the President and the Honorable the Members of the  
Legislative Council.

The Petition of the undersigned,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

THAT a Bill is now before Parliament, intituled "A Bill to provide for the Conservation of the Public Health."

That the said Bill provides for the appointment by the Governor in Council of any number of persons, not exceeding five, to be a Board, to be called the Central Board of Health; that all Municipal Councils and Town Boards shall be Local Boards of Health within their respective Districts.

That the said Central Board is empowered to override and completely ignore any or all of the said Local Boards, which would thus be precluded from discharging their functions in this particular except under the direction or with the approval of the said Central Board.

That the subordination of a body duly elected by the people to a Board nominated by the Crown is a retrograde step, subversive of the spirit which animates every British Constitution, and is fraught with great peril to popular liberty.

That there is no reason for supposing that any Local Board would be less qualified for, or less diligent in, the discharge of the functions assigned to it by law than the Central Board; and that to permit the latter to interfere with and dictate to the Local Boards would lead to jealousy and irritation that would inevitably tend to render the Act inoperative.

That in the opinion of your Petitioners only a Minister of the Crown—himself a member of the highest elective body in the State—should be empowered to interfere with Local Boards, which, if it should be necessary, could be compelled to perform their duty by *Mandamus* from the Supreme Court.

That for the foregoing reasons your Petitioners humbly pray that the provisions of the Bill relating to the Central Board may not pass into law, or may be so modified as to remove the objections to which attention has been drawn.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

For the Municipal Council of Launceston,

H. BUTTON, *Mayor*.

Town Hall, Launceston, 11th August, 1885.