

List of Government Bills to be introduced into Legislative Council

This document sets out the main pieces of legislation which the Government plans to introduce into the Legislative Council in the current legislative session. The Programme may need to be adjusted in the light of developments to reflect changing priorities.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Purpose of Legislation</i>	<i>Responsible Bureau/Department</i>
1. Adaptation of Laws Bill	To bring Ordinances relating to LegCo into conformity with the Basic Law and with Hong Kong's status as a Special Administrative Region.	Administration Wing
2. Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	To amend related ordinances to provide for open civil proceedings and publishing of information about such proceedings.	Administration Wing
3. Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill	To provide for a statutory basis on which foreign judgments in civil or commercial matters can be enforced in Hong Kong.	Administration Wing
4. Court of Final Appeal (Amendment) Bill	To introduce a leapfrog procedure to enable certain civil appeals to be made to the Court of Final Appeal directly from the Court of First Instance.	Administration Wing
5. Amendments to Prevention of Bribery Ordinance	To create a new provision under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance which is applicable to the Chief Executive.	Administration Wing
6. The Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill	To allow the Ombudsman to keep and invest surplus funds and hold property for office accommodation use.	Administration Wing

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7. Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	To deal with minor, technical amendments to various Ordinances.	Department of Justice
8. Crimes (Amendment) Bill	To create a new offence of “persistent sexual abuse of a child” to deal with the scenario where a child has been abused on several occasions over a period of time and is unable to recount each occasion of abuse.	Department of Justice
9. Bill on amendments to Import and Export Ordinance and Dutiable Commodities Ordinance	To provide the necessary legal framework for the compulsory use of electronic data exchange in the lodgement of cargo manifests and the submission of dutiable commodities permit applications.	Commerce and Industry Bureau
10. The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Bill	To specify the purposes and powers of the merged body of the Hong Kong Industrial Estates Corporation, the Hong Kong Industrial Technology Centre Corporation and the Hong Kong Science Park, and make provisions for its operation and management, staffing and financial reporting.	Commerce and Industry Bureau
11. Bill on amendments to the Patents Ordinance and the Registered Designs Ordinance	To provide the legal basis for the application, registration and related matters of Patents and Registered Designs to be published by electronic means and to streamline procedures for patent applications.	Commerce and Industry Bureau
12. Chemical Weapons (Convention) Bill	To fulfill the international obligation of the Central People’s Government under the Chemical Weapons Convention.	Commerce and Industry Bureau

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13. Chief Executive Election Bill	To provide for the legislative framework for the election of the second term Chief Executive in 2002.	Constitutional Affairs Bureau
14. Hong Kong Tourist Association (Amendment) Bill	To implement the recommendations of a Strategic Organisation Review of the Hong Kong Tourist Association.	Economic Services Bureau
15. Electricity (Amendment) Bill	To enable the updating of the Electricity Supply Regulations and make related amendments to the Electricity Ordinance for better regulation of the technical and operational standards of electricity supply.	Economic Services Bureau
16. Merchant Shipping (Registration) (Amendment) Bill	To simplify and improve ship registration procedures in order to enhance the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Hong Kong Shipping Register.	Economic Services Bureau
17. Travel Agents (Amendment) Bill	To introduce a regulatory regime for inbound travel agents.	Economic Services Bureau
18. Bill on civil liability for unsafe products	To enact an ordinance to provide explicit civil liability protection against unsafe products for consumers.	Economic Services Bureau
19. Education (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill	To keep the Education Ordinance abreast of the developments in the education sector.	Education and Manpower Bureau

<i>Title</i>	<i>Purpose of Legislation</i>	<i>Responsible Bureau/Department</i>
20. Employment (Amendment) Bill on maternity and sickness protection	To clarify the provisions in the Employment Ordinance concerning the prohibition of dismissal of an employee during pregnancy or paid sick leave and to make other technical amendments.	Education and Manpower Bureau
21. Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill	To empower the Commissioner for Labour to make regulations to interpret the Employment Ordinance with regard to the continuity of employment of workers suspended from work under the proposed Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Medical Examination) Regulation.	Education and Manpower Bureau
22. Employees Compensation Assistance (Amendment) Bill	To reform the Employees Compensation Assistance Scheme with a view to restoring its long-term financial viability.	Education and Manpower Bureau
23. Boilers and Pressure Vessels (Amendment) Bill	To remove the ambiguities regarding the charging of fees for the issue or endorsement of "certificate of competency".	Education and Manpower Bureau
24. Post Secondary Colleges (Amendment) Bill	To provide legal backing for approved post secondary colleges with proven quality to offer degree programmes, and to modernise the regulatory framework for post secondary colleges.	Education and Manpower Bureau

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25. Employment (Amendment) Bill on reinstatement	To amend the reinstatement provisions to the effect that the Labour Tribunal may order reinstatement/re-engagement without securing the consent of the employer if the employee found to be unreasonably and unlawfully dismissed.	Education and Manpower Bureau
26. Noise Control (Amendment) Bill	To post a stronger deterrent effect to abate noise nuisances.	Environment and Food Bureau
27. Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen control on movement of hazardous waste, and to establish a legal framework for the introduction of the clinical waste control scheme.	Environment and Food Bureau
28. Sewage Services (Amendment) Bill	To improve the existing procedures for applying for reassessment of strength of effluent.	Environment and Food Bureau
29. Fixed Penalty (Public Cleansing) Bill	To introduce a fixed penalty system for various minor cleansing offences.	Environment and Food Bureau
30. Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Bill	To expedite the closure of unlicensed food premises and empower the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to close unlicensed food premises which pose an immediate risk to public health.	Environment and Food Bureau
31. Country Parks (Amendment) Bill	To enhance protection of country parks through strengthening development control, refining procedures and making other technical amendments.	Environment and Food Bureau

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32. Marine Fish Culture (Amendment) Bill	To legalise the transfer of marine fish culture licences to help facilitate the development of the industry.	Environment and Food Bureau
33. Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Amendment) Bill	To improve the protection for animals, especially food animals, in Hong Kong from serious animal diseases.	Environment and Food Bureau
34. Water Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill	To streamline enforcement practices and evidence collection procedures and to improve licence application procedures.	Environment and Food Bureau
35. Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill 2000	To protect government revenue by amending legislative provisions which may leave room for tax avoidance.	Finance Bureau
36. Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill 2000	To exempt fixed stamp duty and to waive the requirement for endorsement on transfers of units in unit trusts in relation to the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme.	Finance Bureau
37. Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2000	To provide that light diesel oil found in the fuel tank of a motor vehicle with a sulphur content in excess of the specified sulphur content is presumed to be dutiable.	Finance Bureau
38. Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill	To rationalise the anomalies in the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance.	Finance Bureau

<i>Title</i>	<i>Purpose of Legislation</i>	<i>Responsible Bureau/Department</i>
39. Securities and Futures Bill	To consolidate and modernize existing Ordinances governing the securities and futures market and to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness as a major international financial centre.	Financial Services Bureau
40. Banking (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill	To enhance the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's supervisory framework for authorised institutions with exempt dealer status in line with the framework for licensed intermediates under the Securities and Futures Bill.	Financial Services Bureau
41. Banking (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill	To improve the operation of the Banking Ordinance in relation to advertisements published over the Internet to solicit deposits and in the light of other recent market developments.	Financial Services Bureau
42. Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Bill	To clarify certain provisions in the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance.	Financial Services Bureau
43. Corporate Rescue and Insolvent Trading Bill	To introduce a statutory corporate rescue procedure in Hong Kong and provisions to impose a liability for insolvent trading on directors and senior management of a company.	Financial Services Bureau
44. Companies (Amendment) Bill	To implement the Standing Committee on Company Law Reform's Phase I recommendations on amendments to the Companies Ordinance and the Law Reform Commission's proposals for technical amendments to the winding-up provisions in the Companies Ordinance.	Financial Services Bureau

<i>Title</i>	<i>Purpose of Legislation</i>	<i>Responsible Bureau/Department</i>
45. Medical and Health Care (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill	To streamline the operation and provide more flexibility for the regulatory systems for the relevant health care professionals and products.	Health and Welfare Bureau
46. Human Organ Transplant (Amendment) Bill	To streamline the structure of the Ordinance so as to facilitate the operation of the Human Organ Transplant Board.	Health and Welfare Bureau
47. Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Bill	To empower the court to order maintenance payers to pay surcharge in default cases and to relax the circumstances in which the court may make an attachment of income order.	Home Affairs Bureau
48. Gambling (Amendment) Bill 2000	To combat unauthorised gambling activities with extraterritorial elements.	Home Affairs Bureau
49. Gambling (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill	To extend the validity period of licences for amusements with prizes and tombola from one year to three years.	Homes Affairs Bureau
50. Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill	To simplify tenancy renewal procedures, increase penalties for harassment and unlawful evictions and enhance compensation for tenants/sub-tenants of premises repossessed by the landlord on the ground of intention to rebuild.	Housing Bureau
51. Sales Descriptions of Uncompleted Residential Properties Bill	To enhance the accuracy, uniformity and transparency of information provided in sales brochures and advertisements relating to the public sale of local uncompleted residential properties so as to strengthen consumer protection.	Housing Bureau

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52. Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles (Amendment) Bill	To implement the proposals arising from the 2000 Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance.	Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau
53. Land Registration (Amendment) Bill	To provide for centralised registration of land and the introduction of new services, and to increase the efficiency of land registration.	Planning and Lands Bureau
54. Interest Rates for Compensation (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill	To re-define the ways to determine the appropriate interest rate for calculating interest payment for compensation relating to the implementation of public projects.	Planning and Lands Bureau
55. Survey and Mapping Corporation Bill	To establish a public corporation to provide survey and mapping services.	Planning and Lands Bureau
56. Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill	To introduce excavation permit fees and strengthen the penalty system for road excavation works.	Planning and Lands Bureau
57. Bill on surcharge for overdue payment of government rent	To impose a surcharge for overdue payment of Government rent charged under the Government Leases Ordinance.	Planning and Lands Bureau
58. Bill on missing and illegible leases	To overcome problems faced by property owners in proving good title when the Government Lease is missing or illegible.	Planning and Lands Bureau
59. Immigration (Amendment) Bill	To empower the Director of Immigration to prescribe in a Gazette Notice a genetic test procedure and to charge a fee for the test.	Security Bureau

<i>Title</i>	<i>Purpose of Legislation</i>	<i>Responsible Bureau/Department</i>
60. Rehabilitation Centres Bill	To provide for the establishment of rehabilitation centres for the detention and rehabilitation of young offenders.	Security Bureau
61. Dangerous Goods (Amendment) Bill	To bring the Dangerous Goods Ordinance in line with international standards and to introduce other improvements.	Security Bureau
62. Drug Trafficking and Organized Crimes (Amendment) Bill	To enhance the effectiveness of the anti-money laundering provisions.	Security Bureau
63. Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Bill	To establish a licensing scheme for the regulation of treatment centres providing residential accommodation for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons.	Security Bureau
64. Karaoke Establishments Bill	To establish a licensing system for karaoke establishments which will cover fire safety, building safety, public safety and health requirements.	Security Bureau
65. Fire Safety (Buildings) Bill	To improve fire safety in old composite and domestic buildings to better protect people working or living there.	Security Bureau
66. Prevention of Child Pornography Bill	To better protect children by criminalising the possession, production, advertising and distribution of child pornography, and also the employment of children for making child pornography.	Security Bureau
67. Crimes (Amendment) Bill	To provide extra-territorial effect to the current legislation against sexual abuse of children under the Crimes Ordinance.	Security Bureau

<i>Title</i>	<i>Purpose of Legislation</i>	<i>Responsible Bureau/Department</i>
68. Massage Establishments (Amendment) Bill	To narrow the scope of application of the Ordinance to those establishments offering full-body massage to the opposite sex and to improve the licensing scheme.	Security Bureau
69. Fire Services (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the enforcement powers on abatement of fire hazards, increase the penalties and update various provisions so as to better protect the public from the risk of fire.	Security Bureau
70. Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill	To provide the legislative framework for the introduction of a Driver Improvement Scheme, which would serve as an alternative to penalty of minor traffic offences.	Transport Bureau
71. Registration of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Planners and Landscape Architects (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2000	To require all applicants to pass a professional assessment or to satisfy the Registration Board that they are competent to practise before registration under the relevant Ordinances, and to fix a calendar date for the expiry of all registrations.	Works Bureau