

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

CHIROPRACTORS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 428)

CHIROPRACTORS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (CAP. 428) (COMMENCEMENT) NOTICE 2002

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 26 November 2002, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that the Chiropractors Registration Ordinance (Cap.428) (Commencement) Notice 2002 (Notice), at Annex, should be made under section 1(2) of the Chiropractors Registration Ordinance (Cap. 428) (the Ordinance).

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. With the commencement of the relevant provisions of the Ordinance, the Chiropractors Registration (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 428 sub. leg.) and the Chiropractors (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Rules (Cap. 428 sub. leg.) on 1 September 2001, the Chiropractors Council (the Council) began to invite applications for registration from practising chiropractors. At present, there are about 60 chiropractors practising in Hong Kong. As at the end of November 2002, the Council has received a total of 66 applications from both local and overseas chiropractors, of which 62 have been approved by the Council and one withdrawn by the applicant. The Council will decide on the remaining three applications shortly.

3. As the registration exercise is near completion, it is now desirable to commence all the remaining provisions of the Ordinance which are not yet in operation. Section 24(h) and (i), which relates to the offences of practising chiropractic without being registered and practising chiropractic without a valid practising certificate, have not yet been brought into operation. It is recommended to bring them into operation to restrict the practice of chiropractic to registered chiropractors holding valid practising certificates for the protection of public health.

THE NOTICE

4. The Notice specifies 13 February 2003 as the commencement date for the respective provisions of the Ordinance that are not yet in operation. Thereafter, if a person not being a registered chiropractor or not possessing a valid practising certificate practises chiropractic, he commits an offence under section 24(h) or (i) of the Ordinance.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

5. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	6 December 2002
Tabling at Legislative Council	11 December 2002

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

6. The Notice is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It will not affect the current binding effect of the Ordinance and has no productivity, environmental, sustainability, financial and civil service implications. The Notice does not have significant economic implications except that it should bring benefits in terms of public health protection and safety.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. The Council has been consulted and supported early commencement of the provisions. Consultation with the general public is not considered necessary, as they are not likely to be affected by the Notice.

PUBLICITY

8. A press release will be issued on 6 December 2002 when the Notice is published in the Gazette. A spokesman will be available to answer media and public enquiries.

OTHERS

9. For any enquiries on this brief, please contact Miss Noel TSANG, Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food at 2973 8118.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
4 December 2002

**CHIROPRACTORS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (CAP. 428)
(COMMENCEMENT) NOTICE 2002**

Under section 1(2) of the Chiropractors Registration Ordinance, I, after consultation with the Executive Council, appoint 13 February 2003 as the day on which the remaining provisions of the Ordinance that have not come into operation shall come into operation.



Chief Executive

30 November 2002