

Information paper on
4 July 2005

Bills Committee of the Legislative Council
Marriage (Introduction of Civil Celebrants of Marriages and
General Amendments) Bill

Impact on the Government's revenue

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides information on the impact of the legislative proposal for the appointment of civil celebrants of marriages ("civil celebrants") on the Government's revenue.

IMPACT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S REVENUE

2. If the legislative proposal is implemented, the Immigration Department will incur administrative costs in processing applications for the appointment of civil celebrants. Such administrative costs will be fully recovered from the applicants. Based on the proposed fees (i.e. an application fee of \$650 and an appointment fee of \$350) and assuming that about 30% of eligible solicitors/notaries will be interested in becoming a civil celebrant over the first five years after the proposal is implemented, an annual revenue of some \$200,000 is expected¹.

3. When the civil celebrant scheme is implemented initially, we will maintain existing services at our marriage registries. At this stage, we are not able to determine the extent of revenue loss owing to the shift of demand to the new services of civil celebrants. We will conduct a review of our service level in due course to ensure that our services will remain cost effective.

Security Bureau
30 June 2005

¹ Each appointment is valid for five years. It is expected that most of the revenue will be collected in the first year of implementation.