

**2004-05 Legislative Programme
presented to the Legislative Council
by the Chief Secretary for Administration
at the Council meeting on 13 October 2004**

This Programme sets out the main pieces of legislation which the Government plans to introduce into the Legislative Council in the 2004-05 legislative session. This Programme may need to be adjusted in light of developments to reflect changing priorities.

	Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau
1.	Trade Descriptions (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To replace the word “country” with “place” in the origin marking provisions in the Trade Descriptions Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation so that the Commissioner of Customs and Excise may make an order to specify the “place” of manufacture, if a special origin marking requirement has to be made for a category of goods 	CITB
2.	Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make minor and technical amendments in order to update and improve the laws 	DoJ
3.	Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring our regulatory framework governing carriage by air in line with international standards by applying an international convention to the HKSAR 	EDLB
4.	Certification for Employee Benefits (Chinese Medicine) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognize certification by a registered Chinese medicine practitioner for the purpose of entitlement to certain employee benefits under the Employment Ordinance, the Employees’ Compensation Ordinance and the Pneumoconiosis (Compensation) Ordinance and to provide for related matters 	EDLB

	Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau
5.	Employment (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide that where an employee who has been unreasonably and unlawfully dismissed makes a claim for reinstatement/ re-engagement order, the Labour Tribunal may make such an order without the need to secure the consent of the employer	EDLB
6.	Hong Kong International Airport Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To set out the future regulatory mechanism and the corresponding changes in the rights and obligations of the Airport Authority upon its privatization	EDLB
7.	Local Vessels (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To make consequential amendments to primary and subsidiary legislation affected by the enactment of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance and the subsidiary legislation made under it	EDLB
8.	Merchant Shipping (Limitation of Shipowners Liability) (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To implement the amendments to an international convention to enhance protection for passengers and cargo owners against personal injury and other losses• To amend the coverage of the Ordinance to enable carriers running routes between Hong Kong/ Macau and Hong Kong/ Mainland ports to limit their liabilities	EDLB
9.	Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (Amendments) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To empower the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation to perform the quality assurance role underpinning the qualifications framework	EMB

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau
10. Vocational Training Council (Amendment) Bill 2004	• To empower the Vocational Training Council to perform its functions outside Hong Kong	EMB
11. Construction Industry Council (No. 2) Bill	• To establish a pan-industry statutory body funded by construction levies to pursue continuous quality improvements and to take ownership of a reform programme mapped out by the Construction Industry Review Committee	ETWB
12. Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Bill	• To extend control over trade in medicine made from endangered species so as to fully meet the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which has been extended to Hong Kong, and to simplify the existing provisions to facilitate compliance and enforcement	ETWB
13. Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill	• To introduce legislative controls on the collection and disposal of clinical waste to protect public health; to tighten up control on the disposal of imported non-hazardous waste in Hong Kong; and to introduce a legal ban on the import of hazardous waste from developed countries into or through Hong Kong in accordance with the Basel Convention	ETWB
14. Banking (Amendment) Bill	• To implement the New Capital Framework issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and to improve the working of the Banking Ordinance in the light of experience	FSTB

	Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau
15.	Bankruptcy (Amendment) Bill 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate Official Receiver's Office to outsource summary bankruptcy cases to the private sector 	FSTB
16.	Companies (Amendment) Bill 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the definition of the term "subsidiary" for the purposes of group accounts to make it more closely aligned with International Accounting Standards 	FSTB
17.	Companies (Amendment) Bill 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable securities to be issued and transferred electronically 	FSTB
18.	Independent Investigation Board and Financial Reporting Review Panel Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the regulation of the auditing profession by establishing an Independent Investigation Board to investigate alleged accounting, auditing and ethics irregularities To establish a Financial Reporting Review Panel to investigate financial statements of companies and enforce any necessary changes to financial statements 	FSTB
19.	Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the provision of profits tax exemption for offshore funds 	FSTB
20.	Revenue Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the personalised vehicle registration marks scheme 	FSTB
21.	Securities and Futures (Amendment) Bill 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the governance of the Securities and Futures Commission by splitting the post of the Chairman into a Chairman post and a Chief Executive Officer post 	FSTB
22.	Securities and Futures (Amendment) Bill 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the quality of the equity market by giving statutory backing to major requirements for listing, and to make miscellaneous amendments to keep up with market developments 	FSTB

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau
23. Building Management (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the conditions for owners' corporations in their performance of duties and exercise of powers • To rationalize the appointment procedures of a management committee and its members • To afford better protection for property owners 	HAB
24. Race Discrimination Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prohibit racial discrimination in Hong Kong 	HAB
25. Dentist Registration (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide for the establishment of a Specialist Register for dentists qualified in various specialist fields of dentistry with a view to formalizing the granting of specialist title by the Dental Council of Hong Kong 	HWFB
26. Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To regulate Hong Kong's fishing efforts in order to promote sustainable development of the fishing industry and to conserve fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters 	HWFB
27. Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deal with the problem of mosquito breeding more effectively 	HWFB
28. Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To tighten control over the use and promotion of tobacco products in Hong Kong with a view to protecting public health 	HWFB
29. Undesirable Medical Advertisement (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To regulate health claims with a view to protecting the public from undesirable claims 	HWFB
30. Buildings (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To rationalise building control system by introducing a minor works control regime 	HPLB

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau
31. Aviation Security (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To strengthen the control over unruly passenger offences committed on board Hong Kong-registered civil aircraft, and to extend Hong Kong's jurisdiction over unruly passenger offences committed on board foreign aircraft outside Hong Kong while they are coming to land at Hong Kong	SB
32. Hong Kong Management Areas Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To enable certain areas in China that are outside Hong Kong to be declared as Hong Kong Management Areas (HKMA), apply the laws of Hong Kong in HKMA, assist the construction of certain documents made subsequent to the declaration of any HKMA, and provide for related purposes	SB
33. Immigration (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide for the conducting of immigration examination, the granting of permission to land and imposition of limit/ condition of stay through automated means	SB
34. Independent Police Complaints Council Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To enhance the credibility of the existing police complaints system by making the Independent Police Complaints Council a statutory body and specifying its composition, functions and powers in law	SB
35. Marriage (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To allow appointment of civil celebrants to celebrate marriages and to provide for other incidental and connected matters	SB

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau
36. Transfer of Sentenced Persons (Amendment) (Macau) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To implement the Transfer of Sentenced Persons arrangements between Hong Kong and Macau, with a view to facilitating prisoners to serve their sentences in their home environment and thereby to promoting rehabilitation	SB