

Bills Committee on Legislation Publication Bill (the “Bill”)

Response to request for information by members on the Bill

At the meeting on 24 January 2011, the Bills Committee asked the Administration to provide written information to address the concerns raised by members on the Bill.

Contingency measures adopted to recover the Database

2. We will ensure high availability system design, such as server cluster and redundant hardware are in place, in order to maintain the continuous operation of the new Database in case there is hardware or software failure. In addition, the production environment will also be backup by disaster recovery environment which will be housed in a separate physical location.

3. Continuity plan and recovery procedure will be developed during the implementation, such that the time required for recovery of the new Database will commensurate with the assessment results of the business impact and risk level analysis. This is to comply with the standards and guidelines issued by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer on IT operation management and information security incident handling, in which all government departments have to observe.

4. We find that most of the overseas jurisdictions are adopting similar approach to safeguard and recover their legislation database. At present, we have no information on their service pledge on the time required for restoring the damaged database. However, for our new Database, we are planning that the disaster recovery environment should be able to take over the production environment in less than several hours in case a disaster situation is identified.

Storage of legislation data in archiving devices for permanent record purpose

5. We will use write once, read many recording media, such as CD recordable or DVD recordable as permanent archival media. At the same time, we will also consider using other media depending on technology advancement.

6. Legislation data published or uploaded to the website of the system will be copied to the permanent archival media. Validation will be

performed to ensure the integrity of the data written to the media, and the latter will be stored in a secured location for long term storage purpose.

Transitional arrangements for electronic database

7. Migrating the printed official version of legislation to an official electronic database is a complex project. From our exchange with various overseas jurisdictions, it took about a decade for those jurisdictions to design and build up the electronic database, verify and transfer the legislation data to the database, design new workflow and procedures to facilitate the preparation of electronic version of legislation and give a status to the electronic version. Usually, authorized electronic versions of legislation will be prepared for newly enacted legislation from the date of the launching of the database. Authorised electronic versions of existing legislation will then be progressively added to the database. To facilitate users of the database, suitable symbols will be used to help identify the authorised electronic versions of legislation in the database.

8. The exact amount of time required for migration varies among different jurisdictions depending on the numerous factors such as available resources, the volume and format of existing legislation and the technical set up of existing database, if any. Citing New Zealand as an example, their Public Access to Legislation (PAL) Project started in 1998. After obtaining the Cabinet approval in April 2000 for the PAL Project, they conducted detailed costs analysis and independent technical review. Contract to build up the Legislative Enactments of New Zealand (LENZ) system was awarded in March 2005 and was completed in March 2008. They are currently officializing the materials on their website and it is targeted to be completed by 31 December 2012. Setting up an official electronic database is a complicated and long process, lined with technical, practical and legal issues along the way. On top of these, the dual language requirement is unique to the Hong Kong case and thus we will not underestimate the time required for setting up a bilingual legislation database with status.

9. A printed official version of legislation co-exists with the electronic database in other jurisdictions under a similar arrangement as proposed in the Bill. In Australian Capital Territory (ACT), every current republication has been published in authorised PDF format on the ACT legislation register since 12 September 2001. A selection of authorised republications have also been published in printed format. Electronic and printed versions of an authorised republication are identical as they are prepared from the same database. In Australia Commonwealth, most of

the documents on their database are also available in print. Users can order them individually, or subscribe to receive all new releases of a particular document type.

10. As both the electronic and printed versions of legislation originate from a single source i.e. the legislation database, synchronized updates could be done. However, as time is required for the publishing offices to prepare the printed version, it might not be as updated as the electronic version.

11. Both the electronic and printed versions of legislation are deemed to be authentic in ACT, Commonwealth and New South Wales in Australia.

Preparation of past versions

12. We have to involve colleagues of different grades in preparing the past versions of legislation between the launch of the Loose-leaf Edition and the handover. Given the huge volume of bilingual legislation to be typed and structured in the correct format and their subsequent amendments to be inserted in the appropriate places, our very rough estimates are that 8 person year of typists, 13.5 person year of assistant clerical officers and 23 person year of calligraphists are required. To ensure the quality of work, 26.5 person year of law clerks and 8.5 person year of senior law clerks are needed in checking the accuracy of each and every consolidated version. Counsel's engagement is also important in monitoring the whole project and handling special cases.

13. In view of the complexity of the project and the expertise required in legislation consolidation, complete outsourcing is not a practical solution. This is confirmed by our past experience. Colleagues are required to analyze the text of legislation and enter the components in different fields, for example, tagging the defined terms to facilitate online research of legislation. In-depth knowledge of in-house format and rules are therefore necessary.

Exercise of editorial powers under Clause 12 of the Bill

14. Clause 12 is intended to cover minor editorial amendments such as correcting a grammatical, clerical or typographical mistake with a view to improving the readability and presentation of the statute book. The exercise of editorial powers is subject to the overriding principle that any editorial amendment cannot change the legal effect of any legislation.

Any editorial amendment that purports to change the legal effect of a provision would be ultra vires and thus invalid.

15. Currently, the Secretary for Justice (“SJ”) is entrusted with a number of editorial powers under the Laws (Loose-Leaf Publication) Ordinance 1990 and the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1). For example, SJ may in the Loose-leaf Edition omit any enacting, expired or spent provision from any Ordinance and give a chapter number to an Ordinance. SJ may also, by order, rectify printing or clerical errors in Ordinances. We are of the view that it is appropriate for SJ to have these powers in relation to the consolidated versions in the Database.

16. We have not only taken into account the editorial powers we have under both the Revised Edition and the Loose-leaf Edition regimes, but also conscientiously considered the scope of editorial powers in other major common law jurisdictions before providing for the editorial powers under Clause 12. **Annex 1** is a set of tables comparing the proposed editorial and revision powers with a number of common law jurisdictions including Australia, Bermuda, Canada and New Zealand. We have also included the existing editorial and revision provisions in HK in the tables for easy referencing.

17. We would take a cautious approach in exercising any editorial powers under Clause 12 and would only make an editorial amendment when the case is so obvious and there is no doubt at all. Also, as the statute book keeper, we would always carefully consider the views of any person on any editorial amendment that we have made. In the unlikely event of a dispute about the validity of an editorial amendment, any member of the public could challenge our exercise of the statutory power in court. If the purported editorial amendment is found to be ultra vires, we would take immediate steps to rectify it. We would post an editorial note explaining that the purported editorial amendment had no legal effect and the legal position of the provision is that it has not been amended throughout. Details on when it was made and how and when it was rectified would also be provided.

Department of Justice
February 2011

Comparison Tables for the Proposed Editorial and Revision Powers

Clause 12(1)(a)

Correct a grammatical, clerical or typographical error, or an error of a similar nature.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
HK	<p>Section 98A(1), Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap.1) The Secretary for Justice may, by order published in the Gazette, rectify any clerical or printing error appearing in any Ordinance printed or published pursuant to this Ordinance.</p> <p>Section 5(n), Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1965 To correct grammatical, typographical and similar errors in the existing copies of Ordinances, and for that purpose to make verbal additions, omissions, or alterations not affecting the meaning of any Ordinance.</p>
ACT, Australia *	<p>Section 116(1)(a), Legislation Act 2001 Corrects a typographical error.</p> <p>Section 116(1)(c), Legislation Act 2001 Goes only to a matter of spelling, punctuation, grammar or syntax or the use of conjunctives and disjunctives.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

<p>Queensland, Australia *</p>	<p>Section 26(1), Reprints Act 1992 If a provision of a law uses a word that is spelt incorrectly, the word may be spelt correctly.</p> <p>Section 44 If a provision of a law contains a <u>minor error</u>, the provision may be expressed in a different way so as to correct the error.</p> <p>Section 2 Minor error includes — (a) a typographical error; or (b) a grammatical error; or (c) an error of punctuation; or (d) an error in cross-referencing to a provision of law.</p>
<p>WA, Australia *</p>	<p>Section 7(5)(b), Reprints Act 1984 Correct any error in (i) spelling; (ii) grammar; (iii) punctuation; (iv) the use of upper or lower case; (v) the typing or printing, in or of a written law.</p> <p>Section 7(5)(ba), Reprints Act 1984 Correct any inconsistency within a written law in respect of any matter mentioned in paragraph (b).</p> <p>Section 7(5)(c), Reprints Act 1984 Correct any error or anomaly in (i) the way in which a written law is referred to; or (ii) the way in which a provision is designated.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

<p>Bermuda</p>	<p>Section 11(h), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Correct cross-references.</p> <p>Section 11(j) Correct grammatical and typographical errors in the existing copies of enactments and for that purpose make verbal additions, omissions or alterations not affecting the meaning of any enactment.</p>
<p>British Columbia, Canada</p>	<p>Section 2(e), Statute Revision Act (Cap. 440) Make minor amendments to correct grammatical or typographical error.</p> <p>Section 12(1)(c),(d)&(e), Statute Revision Act (Cap. 440) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations to correct the following in any Act: (c) numbering errors; (d) typographical errors; (e) reference errors.</p>
<p>Federal, Canada</p>	<p>Section 27(c) of Part III Consolidation of the Statutes and Regulations, Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act In maintaining a consolidation of the statutes or regulations, the Minister may correct grammatical and typographical errors without changing the substance of any enactment.</p>
<p>Ontario, Canada</p>	<p>Section 42(2)1, Legislation Act, 2006 Correct spelling, punctuation or grammatical errors, or errors that are of a clerical, typographical or similar nature.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

	<p>Section 42(2)12 Make a correction, if it is patent that an error has been made and what the correction should be.</p>
<p>New Zealand *</p>	<p>Clause 25(1)(i), Legislation Bill Obvious errors of the following kinds may be corrected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) typographical and clerical errors: (ii) grammatical and spelling errors, and errors of punctuation: (iii) errors in numbering, cross-referencing, and alphabetical ordering: (iv) errors in or arising out of an amendment, by another enactment, to the legislation reprinted: (v) any other errors of a similar nature: <p>Clause 31(2)(h), Legislation Bill Correct typographical, punctuation, and grammatical errors, and similar errors.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 12(1)(b)

Replace a reference to a date in the form of a description by the actual calendar date.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
HK	Section 98B(1), Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) The Secretary for Justice may, by order published in the Gazette, amend any Ordinance to effect the replacement of a reference to a date in the form of a description by the actual calendar date concerned.
WA, Australia *	Section 7(3)(d), Reprints Act 1984 An authorised officer may substitute for words, or words and figures, that designate a date, an expression that designates the same day by means of — (i) the number designating the day of the month; (ii) the name of the month; and (iii) where required, the year expressed in figures.
Ontario, Canada	Section 42(2)4, Legislation Act, 2006 Replace a description of a date or time with the actual date or time.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 12(1)(c)

Renumber provisions (if it is necessary or expedient to do so).

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
HK	Section 5(h), Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1965 To renumber the sections in any Ordinance in all cases where it may be necessary or expedient to do so.
ACT, Australia *	Section 116(1)(e), Legislation Act 2001 Number or renumber a provision of the law.
Queensland, Australia *	Section 43(2), Reprints Act 1992 If a provision of a law is numbered in a way that is inconsistent with current legislative drafting practice— (a) the provision may be renumbered in a way that is consistent with current legislative drafting practice; and (b) all necessary consequential numbering amendments may be made.
British Columbia, Canada	Section 2(1)(b), Statue Revision Act (Cap. 440) Alter the numbering and the arrangement of Acts or provisions.
Ontario, Canada	Section 42(2)10, Legislation Act, 2006 Correct errors in the numbering of provisions or other portions of an Act or regulation and make any changes in cross-references that are required as a result.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

<p>New Zealand *</p>	<p>Section 17E(5)(a), Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989 A schedule may be renumbered so as to be consistent with current drafting practice (for example, Schedule 1 may replace First Schedule), and any cross-references to that schedule in the reprint, or in another reprint, may be consequentially amended.</p> <p>Clause 25(1)(b), Legislation Bill The numbering, renumbering, and consequential amendments authorised by an Order in Council made under subsection (2).</p> <p>Clause 31(2)(d), Legislation Bill Renumber and rearrange provisions from the Acts or parts of Acts revised.</p>
-----------------------------	---

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 12(1)(d)

Change the way of referring to or expressing a number, year, date, time, amount of money, penalty, quantity, measurement or provision.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
ACT, Australia *	Section 116(1)(g), Legislation Act 2001 Replaces a reference to a provision of a law with a different form reference to the provision. Section 116(1)(h), Legislation Act 2001 Changes the way of referring to or expressing a number, year, date, time, amount of money, penalty, quantity, measurement, or other matter, idea or concept.
Queensland, Australia *	Section 29, Reprints Act 1992 If a provision of a law expresses a number, year, date, time, amount of money, quantity or measurement of a thing, or other matter or idea, (the <i>item</i>) in a particular way, the item may be expressed in a different way that is consistent with current legislative drafting practice.
WA, Australia *	Section 7(3)(a), Reprints Act 1984 Substitute for words that designate cardinal numbers, figures that designate the same numbers. Section 7(3)(b), Reprints Act 1984 Substitute for words that designate ordinal numbers, figures and letters that designate the same numbers.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

	<p>Section 7(3)(c), Reprints Act 1984 Substitute for words that designate a sum of money, figures, together with the appropriate symbol, that designate the same sum.</p> <p>Section 7(3)(d), Reprints Act 1984 Substitute for words that designate a date, an expression that designates the same date by means of the number designating the day of the month, the name of the month, and where required, the year expressed in figures.</p> <p>Section 7(3)(e), Reprints Act 1984 Substitute for words, or words and figures, that designate a time of day, an expression that designates the same time by means of figures followed by the abbreviation “a.m.” or “p.m.”.</p> <p>Section 7(3)(ea), Reprints Act 1984 Substitute for “per centum”, or “percent” or “per cent”, the symbol of “%”.</p> <p>Section 7(3)(i), Reprints Act 1984 Substitute for reference to (i) a subsection of a section of an Act or a subclause of a clause of a Schedule to an Act; (ii) or any lesser subdivision of a section or clause; or (iii) any corresponding provision of subsidiary legislation, which is expressed in the long form.</p>
<p>New Zealand *</p>	<p>Section 17E(3), Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989 Dates may be expressed in a manner consistent with current drafting practice.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 25(1)(e), Legislation Bill

Changes may be made to the way provisions are referred to, so as to be consistent with current drafting practice.

Clause 25(1)(j), Legislation Bill

Changes may be made to the way numbers, dates, times, quantities, measurements, and similar matters, ideas, or concepts are referred to or expressed so as to be consistent with current drafting practice.

Clause 12(1)(e)

Alter the text of a provision to give effect to another provision under which the provision is deemed to be amended in a manner as specified in that other provision.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
Ontario, Canada	Section 42(2)8, Legislation Act, 2006 If an Act or regulation provides that references to a body, office, person, place or thing are deemed or considered to be references to another body, office, person, place or thing, replace a reference to the original body, office, person, place or thing with a reference to the other.

Clause 12(1)(f)

Replace a word or expression indicating gender or that could be taken to indicate gender to a gender-neutral word or expression.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
ACT, Australia *	Section 116(1)(i), Legislation Act 2001 Replaces a word indicating gender or that could be taken to indicate gender in accordance with current legislative drafting.
Queensland, Australia *	Section 24, Reprints Act 1992 If a provision of a law uses a word indicating a gender or that could be taken to indicate a gender, the provision may be expressed in a different way that is consistent with current legislative drafting practice. Section 25, Reprints Act 1992 If the name of an office established by a law uses a word indicating a gender or that could be taken to indicate a gender, the name of the office may be changed, and any reference in a law to the office may be changed or given, in a way that is consistent with current legislative drafting practice.
British Columbia, Canada	Section 2(1)(d), Statue Revision Act (Cap. 440) Alter language and punctuation to achieve a clear, consistent and gender neutral style.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

New Zealand *	Clause 25(1)(a), Legislation Bill Language that indicates or could be taken to indicate a particular gender may be changed to gender-neutral language so that it is consistent with current drafting practice, as long as it is also consistent with the purpose of the legislation being reprinted.
----------------------	--

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 12(1)(g)

Omit—

- (i) the enacting provision; and
- (ii) any word, expression or provision that has expired, the operation of which is exhausted or spent or that is otherwise obsolete or redundant.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
HK	<p>Section 4(1), Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1965 In the preparation of the revised edition, the commissioner shall have power to omit—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) all Ordinance, or parts of Ordinances, which have been expressly repealed or which have expired or have become spent or have had their effect;(b) all repealing provisions contained in Ordinances and all tables and lists of repealed Ordinances, whether contained in Schedules or otherwise;(c) all preambles to Ordinances, where such omission can, in the opinion of the commissioner, conveniently be made;(d) all provisions prescribing the date when an Ordinance or part of an Ordinance is to come into operation, where such omission can, in the opinion of the commissioner, be conveniently be made;(e) all amending Ordinances or parts thereof, where the amendments effected thereby have been embodied by the commissioner in the Ordinance to which they relate; and(f) all enacting clauses. <p>Section 2(2)(c), Laws (Loose-leaf Publication) Ordinance 1990 The Secretary may in the loose-leaf edition, omit any enacting, expired or spent provision from any</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

	Ordinance.
ACT, Australia *	<p>Section 116(1)(k), Legislation Act 2001 Omits—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the enacting words or the law-making words (including any signatures); (ii) a provision that consists only of a description of how the law is arranged into groups or provisions; (iii) a provision that has expired, the operation of which is exhausted or spent or that is otherwise obsolete or redundant.
NSW, Australia *	<p>Section 45E(1)(a), Interpretation Act 1987 No 15 Legislation may be published under this Part with the omission of the enacting formula.</p>
Queensland, Australia *	<p>Section 37, Reprints Act 1992 A provision of a law that is spent, has expired, or otherwise ceased to have effect, may be omitted.</p> <p>Section 38, Reprints Act 1992 A saving, transitional or validation provision of a law may be omitted if the provision applies only to a time or event that has passed.</p> <p>Section 39, Reprints Act 1992 If a provision of a law is obsolete or redundant because of the making of any law, the provision may be omitted.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

	<p>Section 42A, Reprints Act 1992 Words of enactment or notification of a law may be omitted.</p>
<p>WA, Australia *</p>	<p>Section 7(4)(b), Reprints Act 1984 Omit words of enactment, and in the case of subsidiary legislation, words of attestation or authentication of its making, and any signature of the maker or makers.</p> <p>Section 7(4)(c), Reprints Act 1984 Omit a provision as to the commencement of a written law.</p> <p>Section 7(4)(e), Reprints Act 1984 Omit a provision that has expired or become spent or had its effect.</p> <p>Section 7(4)(g), Reprints Act 1984 Omit any saving, transitional or validation provision which can conveniently be omitted by reason of its having application only to a time or events which have passed.</p>
<p>Bermuda</p>	<p>Section 10(1)(a), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Omit enactments, or parts of enactments, which have been repealed or which have expired or have become spent or have had their effect.</p> <p>Section 10(1)(c), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Omit preambles to Acts where such omissions can in the opinion of the Attorney-General conveniently be made.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

	<p>Section 10(1)(d), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Omit provisions prescribing the date when or manner in which an enactment or part of an enactment is to come into operation, where such omission can, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, conveniently be made.</p> <p>Section 10(1)(e), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Omit amending enactments or parts thereof, where the amendments effected thereby have been embodied by the Attorney-General in the enactment to which they relate.</p> <p>Section 10(1)(f), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Omit words of enactment.</p>
British Columbia, Canada	<p>Section 2(1)(h), Statue Revision Act (Cap. 440) Omit Acts or provisions that are spent, are repealed or have no legal effect.</p>
Federal, Canada	<p>Section 6(a), Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act Omit therefrom all Acts or parts thereof that has expired, have been repealed or suspended, or have had their effect.</p> <p>Section 6(b), Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act Omit therefrom all Acts or parts thereof that, although enacted as or in public Acts, have reference only to a particular country, province, locality, place or body politic, or otherwise have no general application</p>

	<p>Section 27(a), Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act Omit any Act or regulation, or any part of an Act or a regulation, that has expired, has been repealed or has had its effect.</p>
<p>New Zealand *</p>	<p>Clause 25(1)(f), Legislation Bill Unnecessary referential words may be omitted.</p> <p>Clause 31(2)(c), Legislation Bill Omit redundant and spent provisions.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 12(1)(h)

Amend the heading of a provision or a group of provisions to reflect the contents of the provision or the group of provisions

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
ACT, Australia *	Section 116(1)(d), Legislation Act 2001 Changes the name of the law or a provision of the law.
Bermuda	Section 11(m), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Supply, alter or omit headings.
British Columbia, Canada	Section 2(c), Statute Revision Act (Cap. 440) Rename an Act or portion of an Act.
New Zealand *	Clause 25(1)(l), Legislation Bill Changes may be made to show the effect of any amendment or repeal, and changes may be made that are purely consequential on any amendment made, by another enactment, to the legislation reprinted.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 12(1)(i)

Change the order of definitions, or of items in a list or schedule.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
ACT, Australia *	Section 116(1)(f), Legislation Act 2001 Change the order of definitions or other provisions of the law.
Queensland, Australia *	Section 30(2), Reprints Act 1992 If a definition provision of a law contains definitions in a particular order, the definition provision may be expressed so that the definitions are in an order that is consistent with current legislative drafting practice.
WA, Australia *	Section 7(5)(aa), Reprints Act 1984 Amend a list of definitions in a written law by changing the sequence in which the definitions are listed.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 12(1)(j)

Change the format, layout, printing style or any other presentational aspect.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
Queensland, Australia *	Section 35, Reprints Act 1992 The format and printing style of a law (including, for example, the setting out of the provisions, the placement of conjunctives and disjunctives and the use of capital letters, punctuation, hyphens, italics, bolding and quotation marks) may be brought into line with current legislative drafting practice.
NSW, Australia *	Section 45E(1)(d), Interpretation Act 1987 No 15 Legislation may be published under this Part with other changes to the format (but not to the text) of legislation so as to conform to current styles in the State.
Victoria, Australia *	Section 54A(2), Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 The Chief Parliamentary Counsel, in preparing an Act or statutory rule for reprinting or other publication, may authorise an alteration to be made to text or other matter forming part of the Act or statutory rule to give effect to the style changes in Schedule 1.
Bermuda	Section 11(n), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Do all things relating to form and method which appear to be necessary for the perfecting of the active database or the revised edition.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

<p>British Columbia, Canada</p>	<p>Section 12(1)(a)&(b), Statue Revision Act (Cap. 440) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations to correct the following in an Act: (a) errors of form; (b) errors of style:</p>
<p>Ontario, Canada</p>	<p>Section 42(2)2, Legislation Act, 2006 Alter the style or presentation of text or graphics to be consistent with the editorial or drafting practices of Ontario, or to improve electronic or print presentation.</p>
<p>New Zealand *</p>	<p>Section 17D, Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989 Format may be changed so that the format of the reprint is consistent with current drafting practice. Changes authorized by this section include (without limitation)— (a) Change to the setting out of provisions, tables and schedules: (b) The repositioning of marginal notes and section headings: (c) Changes to typeface and type size: (d) The addition or removal of bolding, italics, and similar textual attributes: (e) The addition or removal of quotation marks and rules: (f) Changes to the case of letters or words (for example, the replacement of small capitals with ordinary capitals, and of capitals and small capitals with capitals and lower case): (g) The addition, alteration, or removal of running heads: (h) The repositioning of the date of Royal assent.</p> <p>Section 17E(4), Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989 A Part numbered with roman numerals may be numbered with Arabic numerals, and any cross-</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

references to that Part in the reprint, or in another reprint, may be consequentially amended.

Clause 26, Legislation Bill

(1) The Chief Parliamentary Counsel may make format changes so that the format of the reprint is consistent with current drafting practice.

(2) Changes authorised by this section include (without limitation)—

(a) changes to the setting out of provisions, tables, and schedules:

(b) the repositioning of marginal notes or section headings:

(c) changes to typeface and type size:

(d) the addition or removal of boldface, italics, and similar textual attributes:

(e) the addition or removal of quotation marks and rules:

(f) change to the case of letters or words:

(g) the repositioning of the date of Royal assent.

Clause 12(1)(k)

Make an amendment that is consequential on any amendment made under this section (other than this paragraph).

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
ACT, Australia *	Section 116(1)(o), Legislation Act 2001 Consequential [amendments] on any amendment made to the law by another law. Section 116(1)(p), Legislation Act 2001 Consequential [amendments] on any other editorial amendment (whether made to that law or another law).
Queensland, Australia *	Section 7(k), Reprints Act 1992 In a reprint of law, the text of the law may be given — (k) making all necessary consequential amendments.
New Zealand *	Clause 25(1)(m), Legislation Bill Changes may be made that are purely consequential on any other change authorised by this subject.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 12(2)

Replace a general reference to another item of subsidiary legislation.

Jurisdictions	Comparable provisions
HK	Section 98C(1), Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) The Secretary for Justice may, by order published in the Gazette, amend any subsidiary legislation to effect the replacement of a general reference to another subsidiary legislation by— (a) the title or citation of that other subsidiary legislation; (b) its number among the subsidiary legislation of the year in which it was enacted; or (c) any chapter number lawfully given to it under the authority of any Ordinance providing for the issue of a revised or other edition of the laws of Hong Kong.
Ontario, Canada	Section 42(2)3, Legislation Act, 2006 Replace a form of reference to an Act or regulation, or a provision or other portion of an Act or regulation, with a different form of reference, in accordance with Ontario drafting practices.

Clause 17(a)

Make an amendment to an Ordinance for the purpose of securing consistency in expression within the Ordinance or with another Ordinance.

Jurisdictions	Comparable Provisions
HK	<p>Section 5(c), Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1965 To make such formal alterations to any Ordinance as are necessary or expedient for the purpose of securing uniformity of expression.</p> <p>Section 4D(1), Official Languages Ordinance (Cap. 5) The Secretary for Justice may, by order in the Gazette, make formal alterations to the text of an Ordinance in one official language to achieve consistency between—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) a word, expression or phrase in the text to which the alteration is made; and(b) a word, expression or phrase in—<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) that text; or(ii) the text of another Ordinance in the same official language, where both such words, expressions or phrases purport to be the equivalent of the same word, expression or phrase in the other official language in the same context.
British Columbia, Canada	<p>Section 2(1)(d), Statue Revision Act (Cap. 440) Alter language and punctuation to achieve a clear, consistent and gender neutral styles.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

<p>Federal, Canada</p>	<p>Section 6(e), Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act Make such alterations in the language of the statutes as may be required to preserve a uniform mode of expression, without changing the substance of any enactment</p>
<p>New Zealand</p>	<p>Clause 31(2)(e)&(i), Legislation Bill A revision Bill may — (e) make changes in language, format, and punctuation to achieve a clear, consistent, gender-neutral, and modern style of expression, to achieve consistency with current drafting style and format, and generally to express better the spirit and meaning of the law: (i) make minor amendments to clarify Parliament’s intent, or reconcile inconsistencies between provisions.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

Clause 17(b)

Alter the form or arrangement of a section, by transferring words, by combining it in whole or in part with another section or other sections or by dividing it into subsections.

Jurisdictions	Comparable Provisions
HK	Section 5(i), Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1965 To alter the form or arrangement of any section, by transferring words, by combining it in whole or in part with another section or other sections or by dividing it into two or more subsections.
Bermuda	Section 11(b), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Alter the form or arrangement of any enactment by transferring words, by combining it in whole or in part with another enactment or other enactments or by dividing it into two or more parts or transferring the whole or any part thereof to a schedule.
British Columbia, Canada	Section 2(1)(a), Statue Revision Act (Cap. 440) Combine Acts or provisions of them. Section 2(1)(a.1), Statue Revision Act (Cap. 440) Separate an Act or provision of an Act into 2 or more Acts or provisions.
Federal, Canada	Section 6(d), Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act Alter the numbering and arrangement of the statues and of the different Parts, sections and other divisions thereof.

Clause 17(c)

Transfer a provision in an Ordinance to another Ordinance to which that provision more properly belongs.

Jurisdictions	Comparable Provisions
HK	Section 5(j), Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1965 To transfer any provision contained in an Ordinance from such Ordinance to any other Ordinance to which that provision more properly belongs, making such alteration as are thereby rendered necessary or expedient.
Bermuda	Section 11(d), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Transfer any provision contained in an enactment from that enactment to any other enactment to which it more properly belongs.

Clause 17(d)

Divide an Ordinance into parts or division.

Jurisdictions	Comparable Provisions
HK	Section 5(k), Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1965 To divide Ordinances, whether consolidated or not, into parts or divisions.
Bermuda	Section 11(c), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Divide enactments whether consolidated or not into parts or divisions.
New Zealand	Clause 31(2)(a), Legislation Bill A revision Bill may revise the whole or part of 1 or more Acts, and for that purpose combine or divide Acts or parts of Acts.

Clause 17(e)

If the name, title, location or address of a department, office, officer or place has changed, make an alteration to that name, title, location or address appearing in an Ordinance to reflect the change.

Jurisdictions	Comparable Provisions
HK	Section 5(q), Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance 1965 To make such formal alterations as to names, localities, departments, officers and officers and otherwise as may be necessary to bring any Ordinances into conformity with the circumstances of Hong Kong.
ACT, Australia	Section 116(1)(b), Legislation Act 2001 Correct or update a reference to a law, position, entity, place or thing.
Queensland, Australia *	Section 23(1), Reprints Act 1992 A reference to the name or title of the Sovereign or a boy, office, person, place or other thing that has been changed may be given using the name or title as changed. Section 23A(1), Reprints Act 1992 If — (a) reference is made in a law to a body, office, person, place or other thing (the <i>first thing</i>); and (b) the first thing has been replace, either generally or in a relevant respect, by another body, office, person, place or other thing (the <i>second thing</i>); the reference may be given using the second thing.

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

<p>WA, Australia*</p>	<p>Section 7(3)(h), Reprints Act 1984 Substitute for a name, style or title of a person, office, officer, authority, department, place, locality, or thing which has been changed, the name, style or title as changed.</p> <p>Section 7(5)(ab), Reprints Act 1984 Amend an address, a telephone number or other contact details in a written law to reflect changes or additions to those details.</p>
<p>Bermuda</p>	<p>Section 11(k), Computerization and Revision of Laws Act 1989 Make such formal alterations as to names, localities, offices and otherwise as may be necessary to bring any enactment into conformity with the circumstances in Bermuda.</p>
<p>Ontario Canada</p>	<p>Section 42(2)9, Legislation Act, 2006 When the name, title, location or address of a body, office, person, place or thing has been altered, change references to the name, title, location or address to reflect the alteration, if the body, office, person, place or thing continues under the new name or title or at the new location or address. (Note: this provision does not apply to alterations to the name or title of a Minister or Ministry of the Government of Ontario, a municipality, a non-legislative document incorporated by reference into an Act or regulation or an Act or regulation)</p>
<p>New Zealand *</p>	<p>Clause 25(1)(c), Legislation Bill A reference to the name or title of a body, an office, a person, a place, or a thing that has been changed may be replaced with a reference to the name or title as changed.</p>

* The exercise of the powers are not subject to legislative scrutiny.

	<p>Clause 25(1)(d), Legislation Bill</p>
--	---

A reference to a body, office, person, place or thing that has been replaced by another body, office, person, place, or thing may be changed to a reference to the replacement body, office, person, place or thing.