

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)84/16-17(06)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 8 November 2016

Private Columbaria Bill

The Private Columbaria Bill ("the Bill") which seeks to provide for a licensing regime for regulating the operation of private columbaria¹ was introduced into the Legislative Council ("LegCo") in the last term and a Bills Committee was formed to scrutinize the Bill.

2. The Bills Committee on Private Columbaria Bill ("the Bills Committee") completed scrutiny of the Bill in June 2016 and supported the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill at the Council meeting of 6 July 2016.² However, owing to other pressing business LegCo had to transact, the Bill did not resume Second Reading debate and lapsed upon the prorogation of the Fifth LegCo on 16 July 2016.

3. According to the press release issued by the Administration on 25 July 2016, the Government will strive to re-activate the legislative exercise on the regulation of private columbaria as soon as the Sixth LegCo commences, with a view to enacting the Bill as early as possible. The re-introduced bill will adopt the framework discussed and supported by the Bills Committee of the Fifth LegCo, including all the Committee stage amendments over which consensus

¹ "Columbarium" means any premises that is used, or claimed, represented or held out, to be used, for keeping cremated human remains. After the enactment of the Bill, a person must obtain a licence for operating, keeping, managing or controlling a private columbarium, including the selling and letting out of interment right in respect of new or unoccupied niches in the columbarium.

² The deliberations of the Bills Committee are detailed in its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1843/15-16), which is available at the LegCo website <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/bc/bc59/reports/bc590706cb2-1843-e.pdf>.

had already been reached. The Administration will brief the Panel on the salient features of the re-introduced bill at the Panel meeting on 8 November 2016.

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