

(Summary Translation)

(Letterhead of Secretariat of Legislative Councillors of the Democratic Party)

**The Democratic Party's proposed amendments to the District Councils Bill
to strengthen the functions of the secretary of a District Council**

The development of representative government in Hong Kong started in the 1980s. The next term of the District Boards (to be renamed District Councils) will straddle their 20th anniversary so there is every reason for the new DCs to be fully-elected. Besides, an independent secretariat should be set up for each DC to assist the DC to discharge its functions more effectively.

The Democratic Party (DP) proposes that at this stage, each DC may appoint its own secretary. Apart from performing the duties assigned by the DC, the secretary should also be responsible for handling matters relating to members' acceptance of office, membership, members' resignation and vacancy in membership. Moreover, the secretary should preside at the meeting for the purpose of electing the chairman of the DC and be delivered a copy of the court's determination on election petitions. These duties are similar to those of the Clerk to the Legislative Council so DP's amendments are proposed with reference to the Legislative Council Ordinance.

It is necessary to set up an independent Commission for DCs, similar to the Legislative Council Commission, in the long run. The Commission will be responsible for providing administrative support and services for DCs through their respective secretariats and supervising the operation of the secretariats.

District Council Bill

COMMITTEE STAGE

Amendments to be moved by

<u>Clause</u>	<u>Amendment Proposed</u>
2	Add the definition of "Clerk to the District Council" — ""Clerk to the District Council" (區議會秘書) includes any person appointed under section 67 or appointed to act in place of the Clerk when the Clerk is absent or when the office of Clerk is vacant".
6	Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
13	Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
15	Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
17	Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
23	Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
25	Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
31	Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
53	Add ", the Clerk to the District Council" in front of "and the Director of Home Affairs".
57	Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
60	Delete "District Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
61	Delete "District Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
62	Delete "District Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".
67	Delete "a public officer to act as the secretary of that District

Council" and substitute by "a person to act as the Clerk to the District Council".

81 Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council".

82 Delete "Designated Officer" and substitute by "Clerk to the District Council". °

Schedule 6

11 Delete paragraph (a) and substitute by —

"(a) by repealing paragraph (b) in the definition of "Designated Officer" (指定人員) and substituting —

"(b) in relation to, or a matter arising from an election to the District Council, the Clerk to the District Council;"