

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)218/99-00

Ref. CB2/BC/34/98

**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 29 October 1999**

**Report of the Bills Committee on
Hong Kong Arts Development Council (Amendment) Bill 1999**

Purpose

This paper reports on the decision of the Bills Committee to hold in abeyance the consideration of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (Amendment) Bill 1999.

The Bill

2. The Bill seeks to expand the membership of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) by adding -

- (a) the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services or his representative;
- (b) one representative nominated by the organizations of Chinese opera (Xiqu); and
- (c) five other members.

By raising maximum size of the HKADC from 22 to 27, the Administration aims to bring in more expert and community input and to address the problem of sectoral interest.

The Bills Committee

3. The House Committee agreed at its meeting on 9 July 1999 to form a Bills Committee to study the Bill. Activated on 7 October 1999, the Bills Committee held its first meeting on 26 October 1999 and Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting was elected Chairman. The membership list of the Bills Committee is in the Appendix.

Deliberations of the Bill Committee

4. At the first meeting of the Bills Committee on 26 October 1999, members noted that there was a technical link between this Bill and the Provision of Municipal Services (Re-organization) Bill in that the post of Director of Leisure and Cultural Services would only exist in the proposed new structure. As there was as yet no decision on the other Bill, members asked the Administration to advise on the urgency of the present Bill. The Administration explained that the Bill was introduced into the Council in early July 1999 mainly because the new term of the HKADC would start on 1 January 2000. However, it was not anticipated that the scrutiny of the Provision of Municipal Services (Re-organization) Bill would take such a long time. Representatives of the Administration agreed that although it was desirable, there was no great urgency to effect the change as the HKADC could continue to function in its present form.

5. Members noted that the Bill was very limited in scope. They pointed out that apart from the expansion of the HKADC's membership, the Administration had not accepted other suggestions made by the Panel on Home Affairs and various arts associations during recent consultations on the subject. They raised questions on the allocation of funds and the operation of the HKADC which might need to be reviewed.

6. After discussion, members agreed that as there were many unknown factors at the moment, the timing of the Bill was not very appropriate. A member proposed to hold consideration of the Bill in abeyance until the Council had made a decision on the Provision of Municipal Services (Re-organization) Bill. A majority of members voted in favour of this proposal.

Recommendation/Advice sought

7. In accordance with rule 21(g) of the House Rules, the Bills Committee wishes to notify the House Committee of its decision in order to release a slot for activating the next Bills Committee in the queue.

Legislative Council Secretariat

27 October 1999

**Bills Committee on
Hong Kong Arts Development Council (Amendment) Bill 1999**

Membership List

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP (Chairman)

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Hon MA Fung-kwok

Hon Ambrose CHEUNG Wing-sum, JP

Hon Christine LOH Kung-wai

Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP

Hon CHOY SO-yuk

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Total: 11 Members