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Proposed Priority in the Scrutiny of Government Bills

We have just completed a review of the progress in the introduction and the scrutiny of government bills in the current legislative session.

To enable Members to have sufficient time for scrutiny, the Administration have made every effort to introduce government bills into LegCo before 15 March. We are glad to see that all the government bills we intend to introduce in this legislative session were introduced on or before 15 March (with the exception of the Revenue (No. 2) Bill 2000 which was introduced on 8 April 2000 and the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2000 which we intend to introduce soon). I trust you would agree that this shows the Administration's endeavor to facilitate the work of the Council in the scrutiny of legislation.

However, we understand that the scrutiny work for a number of the bills introduced has yet to start despite Members' effort to expedite the scrutiny process. According to the assessment of the LegCo Secretariat, the scrutiny work for many of the bills on the waiting list in fact cannot be completed even if their scrutiny are to start now. Under such circumstances, we have, as you have requested, drawn up a revised priority list of government bills (at Annex) after consulting relevant bureaux on the urgency and the complexity of the bills on the list. While we would urge Members to enable as many bills as possible to be passed before the end of this session, we hope Members would in particular accord utmost priority to the first five items which concern important areas of investor protection, road safety and employee protection respectively.

I should be grateful if you would put forward the above suggestions for Members' consideration at the coming House Committee meeting.

(Mrs Carrie Yau)
Director of Administration

Encl.

Revised Priority of Government Bills

1. Securities and Futures Legislation (Provision of False Information) Bill 2000
2. Road Traffic Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2000
3. Employees' Compensation (Amendment) (No. 2) Bills 2000
4. Road Traffic Legislation (Amendment) Bill 1999
5. Employment (Amendment) Bill 2000
6. Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2000
7. Prevention of Child Pornography Bill
8. Crimes (Amendment) Bill 1999
9. Rehabilitation Centres Bill
10. Dangerous Goods (Amendment) Bill 1999
11. Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill 1999
12. Drug Trafficking and Organized Crimes (Amendment) Bill 1999
13. Medical and Health Care (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2000
14. Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 2000
15. Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Bill
16. Karaoke Establishments Bil
17. Adaptation of Laws (No. 27) Bill 1999