

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. LS 73/99-00

**Paper for the House Committee Meeting
of the Legislative Council
on 18 February 2000**

**Legal Service Division Report on
Legislative Council (Amendment)
Ordinance 1999 (Amendment) Bill 2000**

Object of the Bill

To amend the Legislative Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1999 (48 of 1999) to provide that only registered social workers are eligible to be registered as electors of the social welfare functional constituency and make other related amendments.

LegCo Brief Reference

2. CAB C1/30/5 Pt. 34 issued by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau on 27 January 2000.

Date of First Reading

3. 16 February 2000.

Comments

4. At present, the social welfare functional constituency consists of-
- (a) social workers registered under the Social Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 505);
 - (b) corporate members of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service entitled to vote at general meetings of the Council;
 - (c) exempted societies providing social services; and
 - (d) non-profit making companies providing social services.
5. Clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill propose that the social welfare functional constituency is to be composed of registered social workers only.

6. Clauses 4 and 5 of the Bill provide that the social welfare subsector on the Election Committee shall consist of-

- (a) registered social workers;
- (b) corporate members of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service entitled to vote at general meetings of the Council;
- (c) exempted societies providing social services; and
- (d) non-profit making companies providing social services.

A person described in (b), (c) or (d) may choose to be registered as a voter in the social welfare subsector or other eligible subsector.

Public Consultation

7. According to paragraph 14 of the LegCo Brief, the Administration has informed the Hong Kong Council of Social Service about the proposals in the Bill. There is no objection from the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

Consultation with the LegCo Panel

8. The LegCo Constitutional Affairs Panel has not been briefed about the proposals in the Bill.

Conclusion

9. Members may wish to decide whether it is necessary to form a Bills Committee to study the proposals in the Bill. In paragraph 10 of the LegCo Brief, the Administration expressed the preference that the Bill be passed by the end of February or early March 2000 because the Administration would then inform the affected corporate electors about their loss of eligibility to register in the social welfare functional constituency and to invite them to complete the necessary procedures for registration in some other functional constituencies if they are so eligible before the voter registration deadline on 16 March 2000.

10. The legal and drafting aspects of the Bill are in order.

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