

Mock Council debate

Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2026

A BILL To

Amend the Marriage Ordinance to lower the age under which a proposed party to an intended marriage is required to obtain written consent from 21 to 18 years.

Enacted by the Legislative Council.

1. Short title and commencement

- (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Marriage (Amendment) Ordinance 2026.
- (2) This Ordinance comes into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Security by notice published in the Gazette.

2. Marriage Ordinance amended

The Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181) is amended as set out in sections 3 to 4.

3. Section 14 amended (Production of written consent)

Section 14(1)(a)—

Repeal

“21”

Substitute

“18”

4. Section 29 amended (Marrying, etc., person under 21 without required consent)

Section 29(a)—

Repeal

“21”

Substitute

“18”

Explanatory Memorandum

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181) to lower the age under which a proposed party to an intended marriage is required to obtain written consent from 21 to 18 years.

2. Clause 1 sets out the short title and provides for commencement.
3. Clause 3 lowers the age under which a proposed party to an intended marriage is required to obtain written consent from 21 to 18 years.
4. Under the existing section 29 of the Marriage Ordinance, a person who knowingly marries or assists or procures any other person to marry a person under 21 years of age without the required consent under section 14 is guilty of an offence and punishable by fine and imprisonment. Clause 4 lowers the age under which a proposed party to an intended marriage is required to obtain written consent from 21 to 18 years in respect of such an offence.