

Extract from the minutes of the Special House Committee meeting on 2 July 2004

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II. Report of the Subcommittee on four items of subsidiary legislation relating to the installation of passenger protection equipment on all newly registered public light buses

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 2292/03-04)

41. The Chairman, in her capacity as the Chairman of the Subcommittee, reported that the Subcommittee had completed scrutiny of the following four Commencement Notices which were related to the installation of passenger protection equipment on all newly registered public light buses (PLBs) -

- (a) Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2002 (L.N. 147 of 2002) (Commencement) Notice 2004;
- (b) Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) (Amendment) Regulation 2002 (L.N. 148 of 2002) (Commencement) Notice 2004;
- (c) Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) (Amendment) Regulation 2004 (L.N. 103 of 2004) (Commencement) Notice 2004; and
- (d) Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance (Cap. 240) - Resolution of the Legislative Council (L.N. 114 of 2004) (Commencement) Notice 2004.

42. The Chairman said that the PLB trade had expressed concern that a major vehicle supplier of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) PLBs had indicated that the new short wheel base vehicles would not be available until November/December 2004 due to changes in the manufacturing process to provide for the passenger protection equipment on new PLBs. Owners of diesel PLBs were worried that they might not be able to obtain the one-off grant of \$60,000 under the incentive scheme to encourage owners to replace their diesel PLBs with LPG PLBs before the end of 2004.

43. The Chairman further said that the Administration had agreed to extend the period for PLB owners to obtain the grant under the incentive scheme, if they had placed purchase orders for LPG PLBs on or before 31 December 2004 for replacing the diesel PLBs. The PLB trade accepted the arrangement.

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44. The Chairman added that the Subcommittee agreed that the new safety requirements should come into effect on 1 August 2004 to enhance the safety of PLB passengers.

45. The Chairman said that this was the last House Committee meeting of the term, and she thanked Members and the LegCo Secretariat for their support.

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