

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 134/10-11

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council
To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 10 November 2010

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 106/10-11 issued on 29 October 2010, four Members (Hon WONG Sing-chi, Hon LI Fung-ying, Hon IP Kwok-him and Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou’s motion on “Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme” scheduled for the Council meeting of 10 November 2010. As directed by the President, the respective proposed amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the four Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon WONG Sing-chi;
 - (ii) Hon LI Fung-ying;

- (iii) Hon IP Kwok-him; and
- (iv) Hon Miriam LAU;
- (d) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
- (f) the President gives leave to Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou to speak for the second time on the amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) again to speak;
- (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the four Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon WONG Sing-chi to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment;
- (i) after Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other three amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' ease of reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 10 November 2010**

1. Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou’s original motion

That, in order to relieve the burden of travelling expenses on low-income employees and encourage them to stay in employment, the Chief Executive has put forward the ‘Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme’ (‘WITSS’) in the 2010-11 Policy Address for application by all eligible employees in Hong Kong, and the Scheme will replace the ‘Transport Support Scheme’ (‘TSS’); given that the existing TSS still has deficiencies resulting in some low-income workers not being benefitted, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following criteria in formulating the specific details and eligibility requirements for WITSS, so as to enable a greater number of grassroot workers to receive assistance:

- (a) the ceiling of the total value of applicants’ personal assets should be set at a level higher than the \$44,000 under the existing TSS;
- (b) the ceiling of applicants’ monthly income should be set at a level higher than the \$6,500 under the existing TSS;
- (c) the amount of allowance for eligible persons should be calculated on the basis of 72 hours of work in every four weeks, and people who work less than 72 hours in every four weeks may also receive the allowance pro rata according to the actual number of working hours, with a view to benefiting part-time employees;
- (d) no application deadline should be set for the allowance; and
- (e) a mechanism should be established for regular reviews and periodic adjustments of the ceiling of the total value of personal assets, the ceiling of monthly income and the amount of allowance prescribed under WITSS.

2. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

That, *travelling expenses are an item of daily expenses borne by the vast number of employees and job-seekers in Hong Kong, and* in order to relieve the burden of travelling expenses on low-income employees and encourage them to stay in employment, the Chief Executive has put forward the ‘Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme’ (‘WITSS’) in the 2010-11 Policy Address for application by all

eligible employees in Hong Kong, and the Scheme will replace the ‘Transport Support Scheme’ (‘TSS’); given that the existing TSS still has deficiencies resulting in some low-income workers not being benefitted, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following criteria in formulating the specific details and eligibility requirements for WITSS, so as to enable a greater number of grassroot workers to receive assistance:

- (a) the ceiling of the total value of applicants’ personal assets should be set at a level higher than the \$44,000 under the existing TSS;
- (b) the ceiling of applicants’ monthly income should be set at a level higher than the \$6,500 under the existing TSS;
- (c) the amount of allowance for eligible persons should be calculated on the basis of 72 hours of work in every four weeks, and people who work less than 72 hours in every four weeks may also receive the allowance pro rata according to the actual number of working hours, with a view to benefiting part-time employees;
- (d) no application deadline should be set for the allowance; ~~and~~
- (e) a mechanism should be established for regular reviews and periodic adjustments of the ceiling of the total value of personal assets, the ceiling of monthly income and the amount of allowance prescribed under WITSS; *and*
- (f) *the Job Search Allowance provided under the existing TSS should continue to be included in the new WITSS; the eligibility requirements for applicants for the Job Search Allowance will not be tightened, and the ceiling of reimbursement will also not be lowered.*

Note: Hon WONG Sing-chi’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon LI Fung-ying

~~That, in order to relieve the burden of travelling expenses on low income employees and encourage them to stay in employment, as the Chief Executive has put forward the ‘Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme’ (‘WITSS’) in the 2010-11 Policy Address for application by all eligible employees in Hong Kong, and the Scheme will~~ *to* ~~replace the ‘Transport Support Scheme’ (‘TSS’); given that the existing TSS still has deficiencies resulting in some low income workers not being benefitted, and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare has stated that the Government will review the effectiveness of WITSS after three years of its implementation,~~ this Council urges the Government to adopt the following criteria in formulating the ~~specific details and~~

eligibility requirements for *application under* WITSS, so as to enable a greater number of grassroots workers to receive assistance:

- ~~(a) the ceiling of the total value of applicants' personal assets should be set at a level higher than the \$44,000 under the existing TSS;~~
- ~~(b) the ceiling of applicants' monthly income should be set at a level higher than the \$6,500 under the existing TSS;~~
- (a) *applicants should not be required to undergo any assets test;*
- ~~(e)(b) the amount of allowance for eligible persons should be calculated on the basis of 72 hours of work *eligible persons should be defined as those employees who earn a monthly salary of \$6,500 or less, or those who earn an hourly wage of \$31 or less, while those who work for 36 hours or more but less than 72 hours* in every four weeks, and people who work less than 72 hours in every four weeks may also receive the allowance pro rata according to the actual number of working hours *may receive half of the allowance*, with a view to benefiting part-time employees;~~
- ~~(d) no application deadline should be set for the allowance; and~~
- ~~(e)(c) a mechanism should be established for regular reviews and periodic adjustments of the ceiling of the total value of personal assets, the ceiling of monthly income and the amount of allowance prescribed under WITSS *adjustments should be made to WITSS according to the minimum wage adjustment rate.*~~

Note: Hon LI Fung-ying's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Hon IP Kwok-him

That, *given that the low-income population in Hong Kong continues to increase, and* in order to relieve the burden of travelling expenses on low-income employees and encourage them to stay in employment, the Chief Executive has put forward the 'Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme' ('WITSS') in the 2010-11 Policy Address for application by all eligible employees in Hong Kong, and the Scheme will replace the 'Transport Support Scheme' ('TSS'); given that the existing TSS still has deficiencies resulting in some low-income workers not being benefitted, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following criteria in formulating the specific details and eligibility requirements for WITSS, so as to enable a greater number of grassroots workers to receive assistance:

- (a) the ceiling of the total value of applicants' personal assets should be set at a level higher than the \$44,000 under the existing TSS;

- (b) the ceiling of applicants' monthly income should be set at a level higher than the \$6,500 under the existing TSS;
- (c) the amount of allowance for eligible persons should be calculated on the basis of 72 hours of work in every four weeks, and people who work less than 72 hours in every four weeks may also receive the allowance pro rata according to the actual number of working hours, with a view to benefiting part-time employees;
- (d) no application deadline should be set for the allowance; ~~and~~
- (e) a mechanism should be established for regular reviews and periodic adjustments of the ceiling of the total value of personal assets, the ceiling of monthly income and the amount of allowance prescribed under WITSS; *and*
- (f) *the procedures for vetting and approving applications under the new Scheme should be further streamlined, and the vetting and approval process be expedited and the relevant administrative costs reduced.*

Note: Hon IP Kwok-him's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye

That, *as travelling expenses bring about pressure on low-income employees, and* in order to relieve the burden of travelling expenses on ~~low income employees~~ *them* and encourage them to stay in employment, the Chief Executive has put forward the 'Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme' ('WITSS') in the 2010-11 Policy Address for application by all eligible employees in Hong Kong, and the Scheme will replace the 'Transport Support Scheme' ('TSS'); given that the existing TSS still has deficiencies resulting in some low-income workers not being benefitted, *and with the continual rise in public transport fare, the burden of low-income persons will inevitably be increased*, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following criteria in formulating the specific details and eligibility requirements for WITSS, so as to enable a greater number of grassroot workers to receive assistance:

- (a) *to relax* the ceiling of the total value of applicants' personal assets ~~should be set at a level higher than the \$44,000 under the existing TSS;~~
- (b) *to relax* the ceiling of applicants' monthly income ~~should be set at a level higher than the \$6,500 under the existing TSS;~~
- (c) the amount of allowance for eligible persons should be calculated on the basis of 72 hours of work in every four weeks, and people who work less than

72 hours in every four weeks may also receive the allowance pro rata according to the actual number of working hours, with a view to benefiting part-time employees;

- (d) no application deadline should be set for the allowance; and
- (e) a mechanism should be established for regular reviews and periodic adjustments of the ceiling of the total value of personal assets, the ceiling of monthly income and the amount of allowance prescribed under WITSS.

Note: Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee's amendment is marked in bold and italic type or with deletion line.