

香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室轄下行政署



The Government of
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7 February 2012

The Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Chairman
House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear *Chairman*,

Proposed Order of Priority in the Scrutiny of Bills

We understand that the House Committee meeting scheduled for 10 February 2012 will consider, inter alia, whether Bills Committees should be set up for bills introduced into LegCo, including the two bills which the Administration will introduce on 8 February 2012. I am writing to propose that should the number of Bills for which Members decide to set up Bills Committees exceeds the number of vacant Bills Committee slots available, the first and second priority be accorded to the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2012 and the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2012 (in this order of priority). Our reasons are as follows.

Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2012


This Bill seeks to impose a restriction on the nomination of candidates at a LegCo by-election, which will commence operation from the fifth term of the LegCo. Since the next general election of the LegCo will be held in September 2012, and an early decision on the proposed restriction will provide certainty to potential candidates, there is a need for LegCo to start examining the Bill as a matter of urgency with a

view to arriving at an early decision on the proposal. We therefore propose that should Members decide to set up a Bills Committee to examine this Bill, first priority be allocated to it among bills awaiting Bills Committee slots.

Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2012

This Bill deals with various issues in preparation for the 2012 LegCo election, including regulation of election advertisements (EAs), update of the electorate, counting arrangements for the District Council (second) Functional Constituency, and improvement of electoral procedures. These amendments would have to be in place before the LegCo election to be held this September. In view of the urgency of the Bill, should Members decide to set up a Bills Committee to examine this Bill, we suggest that second priority be given to this Bill among bills awaiting Bills Committee slots.

I should be grateful if you would help put forward our proposal for Members' consideration at the House Committee meeting scheduled for 10 February 2012.



(Miss Agnes Wong)
Director of Administration (Ag)