Travel Industry Bill

Committee Stage

Amendments to be moved by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Clause	Amendment Proposed
2(1)	By deleting the definition of <i>branch licence</i> .
2(1)	By deleting the definition of <i>company</i> and substituting—
	"company (公司) means—
	(a) a company formed and registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622);
	(b) a company formed and registered under a former Companies Ordinance as defined by section 2(1) of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622); or
	(c) a body corporate established or incorporated outside Hong Kong;".
2(1)	By deleting the definition of <i>Mainland inbound tour group</i> and substituting—
	"Mainland inbound tour group (內地入境旅行團) means a tour group to Hong Kong from the Mainland;".
2(1)	By adding in alphabetical order—
	"business permit (業務許可證) means a business permit issued under section 10(1);
	local place of business (本地營業地點) means a place of business in Hong Kong to which the public ordinarily have physical access;
	Mainland travel agent (內地旅行代理商) means a person who carries on the business of organizing Mainland inbound tour groups in the Mainland;".
4(1)(b)(ii)	By adding "whether or not through another person and" after "markets,".

By deleting everything after "if" and substituting— 4(4)(b)the person is the operator of the relevant accommodation; (i) (whether or not subparagraph (i) is applicable) the (ii) relevant accommodation obtained by the person for the other person is intended to be occupied by that other person for 28 or more days;". By deleting everything after "if" and substituting— 4(4)(c)(i) the person is the operator of the relevant accommodation; or (ii) (whether or not subparagraph (i) is applicable) the relevant accommodation obtained by the person for the visitor is intended to be occupied by that visitor for 28 or more days; or". 5 By deleting "a person in the Mainland" and substituting "a Mainland travel agent". 6 By adding before subclause (1)— "(1A) In this section approved Mainland travel agent (核准內地旅行代理商) means a Mainland travel agent that is approved to carry on the business of organizing Mainland inbound tour groups by a regulatory organization in the Mainland that regulates the travel industry of the Mainland.". 6(2)By deleting paragraph (a) and substituting at any local place of business for in respect of which the travel agent does not have a business permit; or". 6(2)(b)By deleting "or any branch licence". 6 By deleting subclause (3) and substituting—

"(3) A licensed travel agent must not obtain any of the services

described in section 5(a), (b), (c) and (d) for a Mainland

inbound tour group organized by a Mainland travel agent unless the Mainland travel agent is an approved Mainland travel agent.".

- 6(5) By deleting paragraphs (a) and (b) and substituting—
 - "(a) all practicable steps were taken by the defendant to determine whether the Mainland travel agent was an approved Mainland travel agent; and
 - (b) it was reasonable for the defendant to determine that the Mainland travel agent was an approved Mainland travel agent.".
- 6(6) By deleting "fact" (wherever appearing) and substituting "matter".
- 7 By deleting subclause (2) and substituting—
 - "(2) An application for a travel agent licence—
 - (a) must be made to the Authority in the specified form;
 - (b) must state the correspondence address and electronic mail address of the applicant; and
 - (c) must be accompanied by—
 - (i) the prescribed fee; and
 - (ii) any document the Authority may require.".
- 8(2)(a) By deleting subparagraph (ii).
- 8(2)(a)(v) By adding "and" after "6;".
- 8(2)(a) By deleting subparagraph (vii).
- 9 By deleting the clause and substituting—

"9. Application for business permit

- (1) If a licensed travel agent intends to carry on travel agent business at a local place of business, the travel agent must may apply for a business permit in respect of that place.
- (2) An application for a business permit—
 - (a) must be made to the Authority in the specified form;
 - (b) must state the address of the local place of business

- at which the <u>travel agent applicant</u> intends to carry on travel agent business; and
- (c) must be accompanied by—
 - (i) the prescribed fee; and
 - (ii) any document the Authority may require.".

Be-By deleting the clause and substituting—

"10. Issue of business permit

- (1) The Authority may, on application, issue a business permit to a licensed travel agent in respect of the local place of business stated in the application.
- (2) The Authority must not issue a business permit unless—
 - (a) the applicant holds a valid travel agent licence;
 - (b) the Authority is satisfied that the local place of business stated in the application, and the location of the place, are suitable for travel agent business; and
 - (c) the applicant has paid the prescribed fee.
- (3) A business permit—
 - (a) must be in the specified form; and
 - (b) must specify the address of the local place of business at which the applicant is permitted to carry on travel agent business.
- (4) A business permit is not transferable.
- (5) The Authority may, when issuing a business permit to the applicant, do one or more of the following—
 - (a) amend or remove the existing conditions of the travel agent licence of the applicant;
 - (b) impose new conditions on the travel agent licence.
- (6) The Authority must specify in a business permit the validity period of the permit.
- (7) The period specified under subsection (6) must not be longer than the validity period of the travel agent licence of the applicant.".
- By deleting the clause and substituting—

"11. What travel agent licence or business permit permits

- (1) A travel agent licence permits the person named in the licence to carry on travel agent business.
- (2) A business permit permits the person named in the permit to carry on travel agent business at the local place of business specified in the permit.".
- In the heading, by deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".
- 12(1), (2) and By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". (3)
- In the heading, by deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".
- 13(1) By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".
- In the heading, by deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".
- 14(1) By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".
- 14(2)(a) By deleting subparagraph (i).
- 14(2)(a)(iii) By adding "and" after "6;".
- 14(2)(a) By deleting subparagraph (v).
- 14(3) By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".
- 14(3) By deleting paragraph (b) and substituting—
 - "(b) the Authority is satisfied that the local place of business stated in the application, and the location of the place, are suitable for travel agent business; and".
- By deleting subclauses (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) and substituting—
 - "(4) A renewed travel agent licence must be in the specified form.
 - (5) A renewed business permit—

- (a) must be in the specified form; and
- (b) must specify the address of the local place of business at which the <u>licensed travel agent applicant</u> is permitted to carry on travel agent business.
- (6) A renewed travel agent licence or renewed business permit is not transferable.
- (7) The Authority may impose on a renewed travel agent licence the conditions, including prescribed conditions, that it considers appropriate.
- (8) The Authority may, when renewing a business permit of a licensed travel agent the applicant, do one or more of the following—
 - (a) amend or remove the existing conditions of the travel agent licence of the applicant;
 - (b) impose new conditions on the travel agent licence.
- (9) The Authority must specify—
 - (a) the validity period of a renewed <u>travel agent</u> licence in the licence; and
 - (b) the validity period of a renewed business permit in the permit.
- (10) The period specified under subsection (9)—
 - (a) for a renewed travel agent licence, must not be longer than 12 months beginning on the date on which the licence is renewed; or
 - (b) for a renewed business permit, must not be longer than the validity period of the travel agent licence of the applicant.
- (11) A travel agent licence or business permit may be renewed more than once.".
- In the heading, by deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".
- 15(1), (2) and By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". (3)
- 16(1), (2) and By deleting "branch licence" (wherever appearing) and substituting

- (3) "business permit".
- 17(1), (2) and By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".

(3)

- In the heading, by deleting "and branch licence".
- 19 By deleting subclause (1) and substituting—
 - "(1) In this section—

specified capital amount (指明資本額) means the amount specified in Schedule 5.".

19(2)(a), (b) By deleting "basic" and substituting "specified". and (c)

19 By deleting subclause (3).

Part 2 By deleting Division 8.

By deleting the clause and substituting—

"36. Display of business permit etc.

- (1) If a business permit has been issued to a licensed travel agent, the travel agent must display the permit at a conspicuous part of the local place of business specified in the permit.
- (2) No person may display a business permit at a local place of business unless—
 - (a) the permit is valid;
 - (b) the permit is issued to the person; and
 - (c) the local place of business is specified in the permit.
- (3) If a licensed travel agent carries on travel agent business by using a website or any other communication network, the travel agent must clearly state the number of the travel agent's licence on the website or communication network.
- (4) A person who contravenes subsection (1), (2) or (3) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine at level 3.".

- 42 By deleting subclause (3) and substituting—
 - "(3) An application for a tourist guide licence or tour escort licence—
 - (a) must be made to the Authority in the specified form;
 - (b) must state the correspondence address and electronic mail address of the applicant; and
 - (c) must be accompanied by—
 - (i) the prescribed fee; and
 - (ii) any document the Authority may require.".
- 43(2)(a) In the Chinese text, by deleting subparagraph (iv) and substituting—
 - "(iv) 申請人持有有效的急救技能證書或其他類似證明書,而該 證書或證明書是由該局指明的機構發出的;".
- In the heading, by deleting "authorizes" and substituting "permits".
- 44(1) and (2) By deleting "authorizes" and substituting "permits".
- 47(2)(a) In the Chinese text, by deleting subparagraph (iii) and substituting—
 - "(iii) 申請人持有有效的急救技能證書或其他類似證明書,而該 證書或證明書是由該局指明的機構發出的;".
- By deleting the clause and substituting—

"56. Correspondence address and electronic mail address of licensee

- (1) The correspondence address and electronic mail address of a licensee are the correspondence address and electronic mail address stated in the application for the licensee's licence until the licensee notifies the Authority of a new correspondence address or new electronic mail address under subsection (2).
- (2) If the correspondence address or electronic mail address of a licensee is changed, the licensee must, within 14 days after the change, notify the Authority in writing of the new correspondence address or new electronic mail address.".

58 In the heading, by deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". 58 By deleting subclause (1) and substituting— The Authority may, on application by the person to whom a licence or business permit is issued, amend any particulars contained in the licence or permit.". 59 In the heading, by deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". 59 By deleting subclause (1) and substituting— The Authority may, on application by the person to whom a licence or business permit is issued, issue a duplicate of the licence or permit.". 59(2) By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". By deleting "branch licence" (wherever appearing) and substituting 59(3) "business permit". 59(2), (3) and By deleting "branch licence" (wherever appearing) and substituting "business permit". (4) 60 In the heading, by deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". 60(1)(a), (b), By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". (c) and (d) 62 By adding "or business permit" after "person's licence". 62 By adding "or permit" after "the licence". 64(2) By deleting "or branch licence". 64(2)(a) By adding— "(ia) the number of the licence; the correspondence address and electronic mail address of the (ib)

licensee;

(ic) if a business permit has been issued to the licensee, the address of the local place of business specified in the permit; and".

- 64(2)(a) By deleting subparagraph (iii).
- 64(3)(a)(i) By deleting "and".
- 64(3)(a) By adding—
 - "(ia) the number of the licence; and".
- 70(2) By adding before paragraph (a)—
 - "(aa) enter and inspect any local place of business if the inspector reasonably suspects that travel agent business is being carried on at that place;".
- 70(2)(a) By deleting subparagraph (i).
- 70(2)(c) By deleting subparagraph (i) and substituting—
 - "(i) any person at the local place of business referred to in paragraph (aa) to produce the business permit in respect of that place for inspection;".
- 75(1) By deleting paragraph (c) and substituting—
 - "(c) require any person at the local place of business at which the investigator reasonably suspects that travel agent business is being carried on to produce the business permit in respect of that place for inspection;".
- In the Chinese text, by deleting subclause (1) and substituting—
 - "(1) 旅監局如認為,罷免紀律委員會某成員,會有利於該委員 會有效執行職能,則可罷免該成員。".
- 90 By deleting the clause.
- New By adding—
 - **"91A.** Disciplinary committee may give general directions

- (1) The disciplinary committee may give general written directions on matters relating to the performance of functions by—
 - (a) the chairperson of the committee;
 - (b) any person exercising the functions of the chairperson of the committee under section 98 or 99; and
 - (c) an inquiry committee.
- (2) The chairperson of the disciplinary committee, the person referred to in subsection (1)(b) and an inquiry committee must act in accordance with the directions.".

108(1)(g) and By adding "or business permit" after "licence". (h)

By deleting the clause and substituting—

"115. Effect of revocation or suspension of travel agent licence

- (1) This section applies to a person whose travel agent licence is revoked or suspended under this Part.
- (2) The revocation or suspension of the person's travel agent licence does not operate to avoid or affect any right, obligation or liability under any agreement, transaction or arrangement relating to the provision of a travel service—
 - (a) that is entered into by the person at any time before the revocation or suspension; and
 - (b) in relation to which a sum of money has been paid at any time before the revocation or suspension.
- (3) Despite section 62, when the person acts for the purpose of complying with the person's obligation or liability under any agreement, transaction or arrangement mentioned in subsection (2) after the revocation or during the period of suspension, the person—
 - (a) is not to be regarded as contravening section 6(1) for carrying on travel agent business without licence; and
 - (b) must comply with the requirements of this Ordinance applicable to a licensed travel agent.".

117 By adding before subclause (1)— "(1A) A legal adviser appointed under section 105(1)(f) may be present at any inquiry before an inquiry committee or deliberations of the committee to advise the committee.". 117(1) By deleting "a legal adviser appointed under section 105(1)(f) advises an" and substituting "the legal adviser advises the". 120 In the Chinese text, by deleting subclause (1) and substituting— 局長如認為,罷免上訴委員團某成員,會有利於該委員團 有效執行職能,則可罷免該成員。". 121(1)(a) By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". 121(1) By deleting paragraph (b) and substituting a decision to impose conditions on a licence or renewed licence;". 121(1)(c) By deleting "or branch licence". By adding "or business permit" after "licence". 121(1)(d) Bu-By deleting "107(2)" and substituting "107(1)". 121(1)(i) 121 By deleting subclause (3) and substituting— "(3) The chairperson of the appeal panel may in a particular case extend the period specified in subsection (2) if the chairperson considers it appropriate to do so.". 122(2)(a) By deleting "the" and substituting "a". 122(3) By deleting paragraph (a) and substituting the chairperson of the board and at least half of the ordinary members are non-trade members; (ab) at least one of the ordinary members is a trade member; and".

"hear an appeal".

By deleting "determine the appeal without a hearing" and substituting

128(2)

- By deleting "summarily in favour of the appellant without a hearing" and substituting "in favour of the appellant".

 By adding before subclause (1)—
 - "(1A) A legal adviser appointed under section 128(1)(f) may be present at any hearing before an appeal board or deliberations of the board to advise the board."
- By deleting "a legal adviser appointed under section 128(1)(f) advises an appeal" and substituting "the legal adviser advises the".
- 153(2)(g) In the Chinese text, by deleting "遊" and substituting "行".
- By deleting "fact" (wherever appearing) and substituting "matter".
- 164(d)(i), (ii), By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit". (iii) and (iv)
- 164(e)(i) By deleting "branch licence" and substituting "business permit".
- By deleting paragraph (f) and substituting—
 - "(f) to prescribe the conditions that may be imposed on a licence or renewed licence;".
- By deleting "branch licence" (wherever appearing) and substituting "business permit".
- By deleting subclauses (2), (3) and (4) and substituting—
 - "(2) A person commits an offence if the person—
 - (a) publishes, or causes to be published, an advertisement (in whatever form) relating to the provision of a travel service by the person or another person who—
 - (i) under this Ordinance, is required to hold a travel agent licence; but
 - (ii) is not a licensed travel agent; and
 - (b) knows that the person or the other person is not a licensed travel agent, or is reckless as to whether the person or the other person is a licensed travel agent.

- (3) A person commits an offence if the person—
 - (a) publishes, or causes to be published, an advertisement (in whatever form) that—
 - (i) relates to the provision of a travel service by a licensed travel agent; but
 - (ii) does not clearly state the number of the travel agent's licence; and
 - (b) knows that the advertisement does not clearly state the number of a licensed travel agent's licence, or is reckless as to whether the advertisement clearly states the number of a licensed travel agent's licence.
- (4) A person who commits an offence under subsection (2) or (3) is liable on conviction to a fine at level 1.".
- By deleting subclause (5).
- By deleting the clause and substituting—

"167. Service of notices or summonses

- (1) A notice or summons required to be served on a licensee under this Ordinance is to be regarded as duly served if—
 - (a) it is delivered to the licensee personally; or
 - (b) it is—
- (i) left at, or sent by post to, the licensee's correspondence address; or and
- (eii) it is sent by electronic means to the licensee's electronic mail address.
 - (2) A notice or summons required to be served on a person other than a licensee under this Ordinance is to be regarded as duly served if—
 - (a) it is delivered to the person personally; or
 - (b) it is—
 - (i) left at, or sent by post to, the person's last known address (if available); or and
 - (eii) it is sent by electronic means to the person's last known electronic mail address (if available).".

Schedule 1 In the heading, by deleting "Branch Licence" and substituting "Business Permit".

Schedule 1, section 1

By deleting subsection section 1(1) and substituting—

"(1) For the purposes of section 13(2)(a), an application for the renewal of a travel agent licence or business permit must be made not more than 2 months and not less than 1 month before the expiry of the licence or permit.".

Schedule 5 By deleting the Schedule and substituting—

"Schedule 5

[ss. 19 & 170]

Capital Requirement

\$500,000".

Schedule 9, section 1(4)

By deleting paragraphs section 1(4)(b) and (c) and substituting—

- "(b) the Chairperson and not more than 15 ordinary members are non-trade members;
- (c) at least 4 but not more than 13 ordinary members are trade members;
- (d) non-trade members are appointed either because of their knowledge in law, accountancy, finance, insurance, education, consumer affairs or general administration, or because of their professional or occupational experience; and
- (e) among the trade members who are appointed as ordinary members—
 - (i) at least one but not more than 3 are engaged in the outbound travel agent business;
 - (ii) at least one but not more than 3 are engaged in the inbound travel agent business;
 - (iii) at least one but not more than 3 are members of the Board of Directors of the Travel Industry Council; and
 - (iv) at least one but not more than 4 work as tourist guides or tour escorts.".

Schedule 9. In the Chinese text, by deleting subsection section 4(1) and substituting—

"(1) 行政長官如認為,罷免根據本附表第 1(2)條委任的旅監局 某成員,會有利於該局有效執行職能,則可罷免該成 員。".

Schedule 9, By deleting "A" and substituting "Subject to subsection (6), a". section 14(1)

Schedule 9,—By deleting subsection section 14 (7) and substituting—section 14 (7). A respect update subsection (6) must be used to

"(7) A request under subsection (6) must be made within the period specified in the notice given under subsection (1)(b).".

Schedule 9, By deleting the section 16 and substituting—
section 16

"16 Pagisians not invalidated by defer

"16. Decisions not invalidated by defects in appointment etc.

Decisions of the Authority are not invalidated solely by—

- (a) a defect in the appointment of a member of the Authority;
- (b) a vacancy among the members of the Authority;
- (c) the absence of a member of the Authority from the meeting at which the decision was taken; or
- (d) any omission, defect or irregularity in the procedures adopted by the Authority that does not affect the decision taken.".

Schedule 9. In the Chinese text, by deleting subsection section 29(1) and substituting—

"(1) 旅監局如認為,罷免委員會某成員,會有利於該委員會有 效執行職能,則可罷免該成員。".

Schedule 9, By deleting "A" and substituting "Subject to subsection (6), a". section 31(1)

Schedule 9,—By deleting subsection section 31 (7) and substituting—section 31 (7). A respect update subsection (6) must be made

"(7) A request under subsection (6) must be made within the period specified in the notice given under subsection (1)(b).".

Schedule 10, By adding in alphabetical order—
section 1

"duplicate licence (牌照複本) means a duplicate of a previous licence to permit the holder of the previous licence to carry on

the business of a travel agent at an additional address;

pre-existing duplicate licence (原有牌照複本) means a duplicate licence that is valid immediately before the commencement date of Part 2 of this Schedule;".

Schedule 10, section 3

By deleting subsection section 3(1) and substituting—

- "(1) If a person holds a pre-existing licence—
 - (a) on and after the commencement date, the pre-existing licence is taken to be a travel agent licence combined with business permit and, accordingly, the person is taken to be a licensed travel agent until the expiry of—
 - (i) the pre-existing licence; or
 - (ii) 3 months after the commencement date,

whichever is the later; and

- (b) if the person also holds a pre-existing duplicate licence, on and after the commencement date, the pre-existing duplicate licence is taken to be a business permit until the expiry of—
 - (i) the pre-existing duplicate licence; or
 - (ii) 3 months after the commencement date,

whichever is the later.".

Schedule 10, By adding "and a business permit" after "licence". section 4(2)

Schedule 10, By adding "and a business permit" after "licence". section 5(2)

Schedule 10, section 7

By deleting subsection section 7(2) and substituting—

- "(2) If, on the expiry of the suspension period, the previous licence is revived—
 - (a) the previous licence is taken to be a travel agent licence combined with business permit and, accordingly, the holder of the previous licence is taken to be a licensed travel agent until the expiry of—
 - (i) the previous licence; or
 - (ii) 3 months after the commencement date,

whichever is the later; and

- (b) if the holder of the previous licence also holds a duplicate licence, the duplicate licence is taken to be a business permit until the expiry of—
 - (i) the duplicate licence; or
 - (ii) 3 months after the commencement date, whichever is the later.".

Schedule 10, By deleting "the previous licence is resumed" and substituting "the section 7(3) licence is revived".

Schedule 10, By adding "and a business permit" after "licence". section 11(2)(a)

Schedule 10, section 11

By deleting subsection section 11(3) and substituting—

- "(3) If a previous licence is revived under subsection (2)(d)—
 - (a) the previous licence is taken to be a travel agent licence combined with business permit and, accordingly, the holder of the previous licence is taken to be a licensed travel agent until the expiry of—
 - (i) the previous licence; or
 - (ii) 3 months after the commencement date, whichever is the later; and
 - (b) if the holder of the previous licence also holds a duplicate licence, the duplicate licence is taken to be a business permit until the expiry of—
 - (i) the duplicate licence; or
 - (ii) 3 months after the commencement date, whichever is the later.".
- Schedule 10, By deleting "a licence" and substituting "a previous licence". section 11(4)
- Schedule 10, In the English text, by deleting "resumed" and substituting "revived". section 11(4)

Schedule 10, section 12(1)(a)	By deleting "3(1), 7(2) or 11(3)" and substituting "3(1)(a), 7(2)(a) or 11(3)(a)".
Schedule 10, section 14(1)	In the English text, by deleting everything after "until" and substituting—
	"the expiry of—
	(ia) the pass; or
	(iib) 3 months after the commencement date,
	whichever is the later.".
Schedule 10, section 15(1)	In the English text, by deleting everything after "until" and substituting—
	"the expiry of—
	(ia) the pass; or
	(iib) 3 months after the commencement date,
	whichever is the later."—.
Schedule 10, section 21(2) and (3)	In the English text, by deleting everything after "until" and substituting—
	"the expiry of—
	(ia) the pass; or
	(iib) 3 months after the commencement date,
	whichever is the later."—.
Schedule 10, section 21(2), (3), (4) and (5)	In the English text, by deleting "resumed" and substituting "revived".
Schedule 10, section 21(4) and (5)	In the Chinese text, by deleting "一在根據" and substituting "一在".
Schedule 10 , section 25(3)	In the Chinese text, by deleting paragraph—section 25(3)(c) and substituting—
	"(c) 申請人持有有效的急救技能證書或其他類似證明書,而該 證書或證明書是由該局指明的機構發出的;".

Schedule $10_{\overline{}}$ In the Chinese text, by deleting paragraph—section 26(3) (c) and substituting—

"(c) 申請人持有有效的急救技能證書或其他類似證明書,而該證書或證明書是由該局指明的機構發出的;及".

Schedule 10, By adding—section 32

"(3) Without limiting subsection (2), if the Authority is satisfied that an application referred to in subsection (1)(c)(ii) for a duplicate licence complies with the repealed Ordinance, the Authority may issue a business permit to the applicant.".

Schedule 10, By adding "or duplicate licence" after "licence". section 38(1)(b)(i)

Schedule 10, By deleting "3(1), 7(2) or 11(3)" and substituting "3(1)(a), 7(2)(a) or section 11(3)(a)".

38(1)(c)(i)

Schedule 11, By adding "and subsidiary legislation made under the Ordinance" after "the Ordinance".