

Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill 2025**Debate and voting arrangements**

- Object of the Bill :** To amend the Trade Unions Ordinance (Cap. 332) (“TUO”) and its subsidiary legislation to:
- (a) empower the Registrar of Trade Unions (“Registrar”) to refuse applications of trade unions for registration or amalgamation if it is necessary for safeguarding national security;
 - (b) prohibit persons who have been convicted of an offence endangering national security from holding office in any trade unions or signing any applications for registration of trade unions;
 - (c) impose restrictions on trade unions’ receiving and using of contributions or donations made by external forces;
 - (d) provide for regulation in relation to trade unions’ being or becoming members of organizations in external places and in relation to members of the executives of trade unions’ being office-bearers of organizations in external places;
 - (e) empower the Registrar to appoint managers to take over the management of the property of trade unions pending the determination of appeals against the cancellation of the registrations of such trade unions;
 - (f) strengthen the enforcement powers of the Registrar and authorized officers;
 - (g) adjust the penalties for the offences under TUO;
 - (h) improve other aspects of the regulatory regime in respect of trade unions; and
 - (i) make related and miscellaneous amendments.

Joint debate : Clauses with no amendments, and clauses with amendments proposed by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare (“SLW”)	— Clauses 1 to 96
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Joint debate on the original clauses and the amendments.

SLW’s amendments

Exception to protect a bona fide purchaser of property of a trade union

Clause 15

- To add the proposed new section 12C(6A) to TUO to provide that if the property of a trade union is sold for full and valuable consideration to a **bona fide purchaser** without notice of the appointment of manager, the sale will not be void by virtue of the proposed new section 12C(6) even if the property is sold in contravention of the proposed new section 12C(4).¹

¹ The proposed new section 12C(4) of TUO seeks to prohibit a person from selling or disposing of the property of a trade union when the appointment of a manager of the trade union has effect.

Handling of dispute between a manager of trade union or liquidator and third party

Clauses 15 and 17

- To amend the proposed new section 12C(9)(g) and the existing section 15(3)(g) of TUO to accord with the principle of “Mediate First”, **empowering the Registrar to refer any subject of dispute** between a trade union manager or liquidator and any third party **to mediation** or arbitration, subject to the written consent of the third party.

Penalty for continuous contravention of the requirement to return the certificate of registration of a trade union or trade union federation

Clause 96

- To amend the proposed regulation 17(1) of the Trade Union Registration Regulations (Cap. 332A) to **raise the penalty for continuous contravention of the requirement of returning the certificate of registration** on the cancellation of registration of a trade union or trade union federation, **from a fine of \$10 per day to \$100 per day**, so as to better reflect the nature of the offence and enhance the deterrent effect.

Drafting, technical or consequential amendments

Clauses 15 and 88

- To make drafting, technical or consequential amendments to the provisions for better clarity or consistency in wording.

Voting order : 1. Clauses with no amendments (i.e. clauses 1 to 14, 16, 18 to 87 and 89 to 95) standing part of the Bill
2. SLW’s amendments (to amend clauses 15, 17, 88 and 96)
3. Clauses 15, 17, 88 and 96 with or without amendments standing part of the Bill

SLW’s amendments

(set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)1246/2025(01) issued on 18 June 2025)

Council Business Divisions

Legislative Council Secretariat

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