

STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL 2021

Second Reading

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.30 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill 2021 is an omnibus bill that makes a range of repeals and minor amendments to a number of acts under the umbrella of a single bill. As members may be aware, bills of this nature are a routine part of legislative review and ensure that the state's statute book is regularly updated and streamlined.

Part 2 of the bill provides for the repeal of Western Australian acts and imperial enactments. Part 3 of the bill provides for the amendments. The amendments range from inserting missing words to correcting typographical, cross-referencing and formatting errors, and to account for updates to and repeals of other legislation. Detailed explanations of each of the amendments are set out in the explanatory memorandum accompanying this bill.

This bill was introduced in a very similar—almost identical—format in the previous Parliament, as the Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill 2020. The bill stood immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review in accordance with long-established practice. That committee tabled its report on the 2020 bill on 24 November 2020, making two recommendations. Those recommendations were, firstly, that the 2020 bill be passed by the house; and, secondly, that the committee's observations be noted. The 2021 bill I am reading in today includes some additional items for repeal that were not included in the 2020 bill. These items relate to elements of the Acts Amendment (ICWA) Act 1996, which was identified by Parliamentary Counsel's Office as suitable for inclusion, and the Business Licensing Amendment Act 1995, which was identified by the committee in its recent report.

I take this opportunity to thank the committee for its consideration of the 2020 bill. In accordance with past practice, the bill will be referred again to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review in accordance with that committee's responsibility to scrutinise and review the statute book. I look forward to the committee's consideration of and report on this bill in due course.

Finally, I advise the house that pursuant to standing order 126, this is not a uniform legislation bill as defined in standing order 126(2)(a), as it does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental agreement; nor as defined in standing order 126(2)(b), as it is not a bill that introduces a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth.

I commend the bill to the house and table the explanatory memorandum.

[See paper [164](#).]

Discharge of Order and Referral to Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review — Motion

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.33 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill 2021 be discharged and referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review.

HON NICK GOIRAN (South Metropolitan) [12.33 pm]: I indicate that the opposition supports the parliamentary secretary's motion to refer this bill to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review. I note, as outlined by the parliamentary secretary, that a very similar bill was introduced into this chamber on 9 September last year. The Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review tabled a report on that bill in November last year, but, regrettably, there was not an opportunity to consider the bill any further. I simply make the comment that when the standing committee has an opportunity to consider this bill now, it would be of great assistance to the house if a comparison of the two bills could be done in order to enable its speedy resolution, I suspect, when it ultimately comes before the house. That will enable us to understand the clear differences between the two bills and, in particular, I might add, the extent to which the matters outlined in the committee's report have been taken on board by the government, and the reasons for those matters that have not been taken on board.

Question put and passed.