

CHILD SUPPORT (ADOPTION OF LAWS) AMENDMENT BILL 2001

Council's Amendments

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

Consideration in Detail

The amendments made by the Council were as follows -

No 1

Clause 2, page 2, line 2 - To delete "Except as otherwise specified in section 4,".

No 2

Clause 4, page 3, lines 12 to 18 - To delete the lines and insert instead -

4. Sections 3 and 4 of the *Child Support (Adoption of Laws) Act 1990* amended

Sections 3(a) and 4(b) of the *Child Support (Adoption of Laws) Act 1990** are both amended by deleting "1 July 1999" and inserting instead -

" 1 July 2002 ".

Mr J.A. McGINTY: I move -

That the amendments made by the Council be agreed to.

The problem has arisen in that the Legislative Council has taken more than 12 months to deal with what was a very simple amendment to extend benefits to exnuptial children. It is very disappointing that it has moved like treacle, and these amendments reflect that passage of time. I hope the member for Kingsley will not ask me too many in-depth questions about this, and I hope she can shed some light on the need for the amendments.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: In defence of the Legislative Council, it has the right to always ensure that legislation is treated seriously, as we all do. However, I remind the Government that a very senior and experienced Leader of the House runs the business of that House.

These amendments essentially reflect the passage of time. The commonwealth legislation that was passed was to be amended at various stages. There were previous dates in October, December and July. As at 1 July 2002, the commonwealth legislation has been set. No further amendments have been made to the legislation that is outlined in clause 3 of the Bill. The amendment is to the commencement date in clause 2, which will be on the day of assent. The commonwealth legislation, as it applies as at 1 July 2002, will come into effect in Western Australia on the day of assent. Essentially, that is what these amendments provide for and we support them.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

The Council acquainted accordingly.