

SECOND READING

Second reading moved immediately

167. After the first reading, provided printed copies of the bill are available, the second reading may be moved immediately.⁹¹

Second reading debate adjournment

168. (1) After a member has moved, “That this bill be now read a second time” and had an opportunity to speak to the motion, the debate will be adjourned. If the bill has originated in the Legislative Assembly, the debate will not be resumed until at least the same day three calendar weeks later.

(2) If the Assembly agrees to a motion without notice by or on behalf of the member with carriage of the bill “That the bill be considered an urgent bill”, the second reading can proceed forthwith. Debate on that motion will not exceed 20 minutes and no member may speak on it for more than five minutes.⁹²

Cognate debate

169. Where two or more bills are complementary to each other the debate on the second reading on all bills may, by leave of the Assembly without a dissentient voice, take place on the bill declared by the Minister or member in charge to be the principal bill. The question for the second reading of the remaining complementary bills will be put without further debate in each case.

Reasoned amendments to second reading

170. Amendments may be moved to the motion for a second reading if they are strictly relevant to the bill, or the question may be negatived.⁹³

⁹¹ If the motion “That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting of the House” is defeated, the bill is lost: 14/12/1932, p. 2442.

⁹² Debate should be on general principles of the bill. It is not in order to discuss clauses: 28/8/1924, p. 551; 11/11/1930, p. 1670; 30/10/1968, p. 2343.

Debate must be confined to the subject matter of the bill: 15/1/1904, p. 3204; 28/5/1931, p. 3159; 12/10/1972, p. 4004.

⁹³ Certain amendments may be moved to second reading question to defeat bill: 3/12/1903, p. 2472; 5/11/1963, p. 2381; 9/11/1978, p. 4775.

Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Council

CHAPTER 25 – PUBLIC BILLS

136. Initiation

- (1) A bill, other than a bill received from the Assembly, must be initiated by a motion for leave to bring in a bill.
- (2) A member having leave to bring in a bill must present a copy to the House.
- (3) The title must agree with the order of leave, and no clause may be inserted in a bill which is irrelevant to its title.
- (4) A bill not in accordance with the order of leave, or with the rules and orders of the House, will be ordered to be withdrawn.
- (5) The precise duration of every temporary bill must be expressed in a distinct clause at the end of the bill.
- (6) A second bill may only be introduced under the original order of leave when the order for the second reading or any subsequent stage of the original bill has been discharged.
- (7) When the original bill is withdrawn, the order for the introduction of the second bill may be read.

137. First Reading

- (1) The question on the first reading and printing will be taken together as one motion, be put by the President immediately after the bill has been received, and be determined without amendment or debate.
- (2) On every order for the reading of a bill the short title only will be read.
- (3) After the first reading, on any bill other than a bill received from the Legislative Assembly, the second reading may be moved immediately or made an order of the day for a later hour or for a future day. Immediately following the second reading speech by the mover, debate is to be adjourned until a future day which must be at least five calendar days ahead.

138. Urgent bills

- (1) A Minister may declare a bill to be an urgent bill, provided that copies have been circulated to members.
- (2) The question – That the bill be considered an urgent bill – will be put immediately, without amendment.
- (3) When a bill has been declared urgent, the second reading debate and subsequent stages may proceed immediately or at any time during any sitting.

- (2) When the Council considers the Message from the Assembly it will —
 - (a) insist or not insist on its amendments;
 - (b) agree or not agree with any further amendments made by the Assembly; or
 - (c) defer further consideration of the Bill indefinitely, in which case the Bill lapses.

14.29 Amendment proposed by Governor

Whenever the Governor proposes any amendment to be made in a Bill originated in the Council and presented to him or her for assent, and transmits such amendment by Message to the Council, the amendment will be agreed to or not agreed to by the Council, but no amendment may be proposed to that amendment.

14.30 Governor's amendment sent to Assembly

When the Council has agreed to any amendment proposed by the Governor pursuant to Standing Order 14.29, that amendment will be transmitted by Message to the Assembly for their agreement.

14.31 Governor's amendment transmitted by Assembly

Whenever the Assembly has agreed to any amendment proposed by the Governor to be made in a Bill originated in the Assembly, and transmit such amendment to the Council, the amendment will be agreed to or not agreed to by the Council, but no amendment may be proposed to that amendment.

14.32 Consequential renumbering of Bills

Where a Bill has been amended, the Clerk is authorised to carry out any consequential renumbering required in it, except in relation to text being inserted or substituted in Principal Acts.

14.33 Correction of clerical or typographical errors

Clerical or typographical errors may be corrected in any part of a Bill by the Clerk after such Bill has been read a third time and passed, and the Clerk will inform the Council what errors he or she has corrected.

14.34 Urgent Bills

- (1) At any time following the introduction of a Bill, a Minister may without notice declare a Bill to be an urgent Bill and move "That the Bill be treated as an urgent Bill".
- (2) No amendment will be permitted to the question.
- (3) When a Bill has been declared urgent, the second reading debate and all subsequent stages may proceed immediately or at any time during any sitting.