

**STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL 2008**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Hon Kim Chance (Leader of the House)**, and read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural — Leader of the House)** [4.50 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This is the seventh Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill, more commonly known as an omnibus bill, to be introduced into Parliament as part of an ongoing program of legislative review. An omnibus bill is an avenue for making general housekeeping amendments to legislation. It is designed to make only relatively minor, non-controversial amendments to various acts and repeal the acts that are no longer required. Omnibus bills assist in expediting the government's legislative program and parliamentary business by reducing the number of separate amendment bills that deal with relatively minor amendments and repeals. They also help to weed out spent or redundant legislation from the statute book. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has overseen the preparation of the bill to try to ensure that amendments about which there is some contention or complexity, or that make some substantive changes to the law, are not included.

The bill deals with two main categories of amendments—acts repealed and acts amended. Part 2 of the bill deals with the repeal of unproclaimed or obsolete, redundant, spent and inoperative acts. Part 3 of the bill contains a range of miscellaneous, non-controversial and administrative amendments to a number of acts across various portfolio areas. These are minor or technical changes to legislation that the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel considers are appropriate for inclusion in the bill. Examples of such amendments are corrections to typographical, grammatical, formatting and cross-referencing errors; those that are believed to better implement the object or intent of the legislation; those arising out of the enactment or repeal of other legislation; and those updating terminology. The various amendments are explained in detail in the explanatory memorandum. In accordance with past practice, I will move that the Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill 2008 be referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review for consideration and report. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.