

STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL 2009

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Hon Simon O'Brien (Minister for Transport)**, and read a first time.

Second Reading

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Transport) [5.47 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill was previously second-read in the Council on 20 March 2008, when it was known as the Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill 2008—bill 265-1. On 7 May 2008, the bill was referred to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review for consideration and report. No report was made before the Parliament was prorogued for the recent election. The present bill differs from the 2008 bill in some minor respects, as some of the amendments formerly made have since been taken up in other legislation and are therefore deleted from this bill.

This bill is what is 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 to repeal 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 provided oversight of the original bill. However, oversight has since been transferred to the Department of the Attorney General.

The bill deals with two main categories of amendments—acts repealed and acts amended. Part 2 of the bill provides for 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 Parliamentary Counsel's Office considers are appropriate for inclusion in the bill. Examples of such amendments are corrections to typographical, grammatical, formatting and cross-referencing errors; amendments that are believed to better implement the object or intent of the legislation; amendments arising out of the enactment or repeal of other legislation; and amendments updating terminology. The various amendments are explained in detail in the explanatory memorandum. In accordance with past practice, I intend to move that the bill 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.

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

On motion without notice by **Hon Simon O'Brien (Minister for Transport)**, resolved —

That the Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill 2009 be discharged and referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review for consideration and report.