

LC: Speech on resolution made under Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1)

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Following is the speech by the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour, Mr Stephen Ip, in moving the resolution made under Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1), regarding the transfer of certain statutory powers and functions of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary to the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour, in the Legislative Council today (June 16) (translation):

President,

I move that the resolution proposed under Section 54A of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1), as set out on the agenda, be passed. The objective of the resolution is to amend the respective provisions of the ordinances set out in the resolution to transfer the statutory powers and functions of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary under these provisions to the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (SEDL).

All of the powers and functions proposed to be transferred fall within the SEDL's policy portfolio, and most of them relate to procedural or administrative matters involving the statutory organisations under the SEDL's purview, such as -

- (i) fixing or extending the deadline for submission of annual estimates, programme of activities, statement of accounts, the auditor's reports and annual reports by these organisations;
- (ii) approving the annual estimates and programme of activities of these organisations;
- (iii) tabling in the Legislative Council the statement of accounts, the auditor's reports and annual reports of these organisations; and
- (iv) approving the appointment of auditors by these organisations.

Others relate to -

- (i) the determination of remuneration rates for members of various appeal boards established under the Consumer Goods Safety Ordinance, the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance, and the Electricity Ordinance;

- (ii) the determination of expenses allowed for witnesses under the Hong Kong Civil Aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations;
- (iii) powers in the Travel Agents Ordinance to ensure proper operation of the Travel Industry Compensation Fund and the Travel Industry Council; and
- (iv) powers provided in three marine-related ordinances, namely, the powers to-
  - (a) appoint members of the Seafarers' Appeals Board under the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) Ordinance;
  - (b) lay before this Council in January each year a special report stating the cases in which the Chief Executive has exempted any vessel during the preceding year under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance; and
  - (c) certify membership of the committee of the Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen under the Sailors Home and Missions to Seamen Incorporation Ordinance.

Subject to the approval of the motion by this Council, the amended provisions will come into force on the date of their publication in the Gazette.

I hereby move the motion.

Ends/Wednesday, June 16, 2004