

STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL (NO 2) 2014

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Brad Hazzard, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Attorney General, and Minister for Justice) [4.00 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2014 continues the statute law revision program, which has been in place for the past 30 years. Bills of this kind are an effective method for making minor policy changes, repealing redundant legislation and maintaining the quality of the New South Wales statute book. Schedule 1 to the bill contains policy changes of a minor and non-controversial nature that are too inconsequential to warrant the introduction of a separate amending bill. It contains amendments to 29 Acts and related amendments to five regulations. I will describe some of the amendments to give members an indication of the kinds included in this schedule.

Schedule 1 amends the Conveyancers Licensing Act 2003 to extend the class of persons who may carry out the compulsory auditing of licensees' records under the Act. In particular, the class of persons is extended to include audit companies registered by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission [ASIC] under the Corporations Act 2001 of the Commonwealth and members of professional accounting bodies who hold a Public Practice Certificate. The amendments to the Parents and Citizens Associations Incorporation Act 1976 make it clear that a parents and citizens association of a school may vote in an election under the Act for the councillors and delegates of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations only if the association is admitted as a member of the federation. The amendments also make it clear that a person is eligible to be elected as a councillor or delegate of the federation only if the person is a member of a parents and citizens association that is admitted as a member of the federation.

The final schedule 1 matter is an amendment to the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1971. The amendment enables the existing trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund who are appointed by the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly to continue in office despite ceasing to be members because of the dissolution or expiry of the Legislative Assembly before a State general election, until the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council appoints a successor after the State general election. The Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal has, under section 4 of the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1971, issued a certificate approving this amendment. Such a certificate is required before Parliament can deal with a bill that amends that Act. I table the certificate.

Document tabled.

Schedule 2 deals with matters of pure statute law revision consisting of minor technical changes to legislation that the Parliamentary Counsel considers are appropriate for inclusion in the bill. Examples of amendments in schedule 2 are corrections of cross-references, typographical errors and terminology, and amendments arising out of the enactment of other legislation. Schedule 3 repeals various redundant and superfluous Acts and provisions of Acts. These include the Pacific Power

(Dissolution) Act 2003, which is made redundant by the amendments to the Energy Services Corporations Act 1995, as I mentioned earlier. Schedule 4 contains general savings, transitional and other provisions. These include provisions dealing with the effect of amendments on amending provisions, and savings clauses for the repealed Acts and provisions.

The various amendments are explained in detail in explanatory notes set out beneath the amendments to each Act and statutory instrument concerned or at the end of the schedule concerned. I am sure that members will appreciate the straightforward and non-controversial nature of the provisions contained in the bill. However, if any amendment causes concern or requires clarification, it should be brought to my attention. If necessary, I will arrange for government staff to provide additional information on the matters raised. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned on motion by Mr Clayton Barr and set down as an order of the day for a future day.