

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Constitution Act 1902* to enable the Speaker to take part in debates or discussions, and to vote, when not presiding in the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker when presiding has a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes. As a result of recent changes to the Standing Orders, the detailed consideration of Bills is now held in proceedings of the House rather than in the Committee of the Whole presided over by the Chair of Committees. The Bill will therefore also ensure that the Speaker can continue to participate fully in the detailed consideration of a Bill in the Legislative Assembly.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Clause 3 is a formal provision that gives effect to the amendments to the *Constitution Act 1902* set out in Schedule 1.

Clause 4 provides for the repeal of the proposed Act after all the amendments made by the proposed Act have commenced. Once the amendments have commenced the proposed Act will be spent and section 30 of the *Interpretation Act 1987* provides that the repeal of an amending Act does not affect the amendments made by that Act.

Schedule 1 Amendments

Schedule 1 [1]–[3] amend sections 31 and 32 of the *Constitution Act 1902* for the purposes outlined in the Overview above.