



Legislative Council

Parliamentary Remuneration Amendment (Recognised Office Holder) Bill Hansard - Extract

27/06/2002

Second Reading

The Hon. JOHN DELLA BOSCA (Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast) [10.57 a.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

As the second reading speech is the same as that delivered in the other place, I seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The Government has agreed to introduce this Bill to amend the Parliamentary Remuneration Act following representations from the Opposition.

The Bill will enable the Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council of a recognised political party with not fewer than nine members in the Legislative Council to receive an additional salary and expense allowance.

The Parliamentary Remuneration Act provides that certain recognised office holders specified in Schedule 1 to the Act are entitled to receive an additional salary and expense allowance.

In May 1996, Schedule 1 to the Act was amended by regulation to insert, as a recognised office holder, the position of Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council of a political party with not fewer than ten members in the Council.

From the commencement of the amendment, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council became entitled to receive an additional salary and expense allowance.

As a result of the March 1999 election, the number of members of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council was reduced to nine.

However, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council continued to receive the additional salary and allowance, in error, for more than a year after March 1999.

The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council has continued to perform this role. There is no suggestion that the responsibilities of the role have been reduced in any significant way because the number of Liberal Party Members of the Legislative Council has fallen from ten to nine.

Accordingly, the Government has agreed to introduce the Bill.

The Bill amends Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act to provide that the Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council of a recognised political party with not fewer than nine members in the Legislative Council is entitled to receive an additional salary and expense allowance.

That is, the Bill replaces the current requirement for ten members with a new requirement for nine members.

The Bill also provides that the amendment takes effect from 27 March 1999.

I commend the Bill to the House.