

*Objects and Reasons.*

1. The object of this bill is to amend further the Opium Ordinance, 1914.

2. Clause 2 adds a new sub-section to section 30 of the principal Ordinance to the effect that no person shall smoke opium in an opium divan. At present this is not definitely specified as an offence in the Ordinance, and persons found smoking in divans are charged under section 30 with using an opium divan. It is perhaps open to doubt whether the use of this section for this purpose is correct, since the rest of the section is applicable only to opium divan keepers. That the offence of smoking in a divan was contemplated by the framers of the Ordinance seems clear from the present section 31, and it is therefore considered advisable definitely to prohibit such smoking.

3. Clause 3 of the bill authorises additional presumptions in the principal Ordinance. In the majority of prosecutions for keeping opium divans it is necessary to prove an actual sale of opium, and the difficulty of proving this makes it almost impossible to bring home the offence. The first part of clause 3 therefore authorises the presumptions that, where two or more persons are found smoking opium in any place, themselves not being residents there, (a) the place is an opium divan, and (b) the tenant or occupier is keeping an opium divan there, provided that the tenant or occupier or one of his servants is present at the time. The second part of clause 3 merely re-enacts the existing section 31 of the Ordinance.

4. Clause 4 provides an alternative penalty for breaches of section 46 of the principal Ordinance, in conformity with the alternative authorised in section 61.

5. Clause 5 of the bill corrects an obvious error in drafting in section 61 of the principal Ordinance.

J. H. KEMP,  
*Attorney General.*

*4th January, 1922.*

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**DRAFT BILL.**

**No. S. 52.**—The following draft bill is published for general information.

**A BILL**

INTITULED

An Ordinance to make temporary provision for the appointment of solicitors to appear in the Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in certain emergencies.

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Short title.     **1.** This Ordinance may be cited as the Supreme Court (Original Jurisdiction) Emergency Ordinance, 1922.

Definition.     **2.** In this Ordinance:—  
“Cause” shall have the meaning assigned to it in the Code of Civil Procedure.

"Original Jurisdiction" means the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court on the trial of causes under the Code of Civil Procedure.

3. If at any time in the opinion of the Chief Justice there is not a sufficient number of barristers within the Colony who are available and competent to appear and act for the suitors of the Supreme Court it shall be lawful for the Chief Justice by writing under his hand to authorise any duly enrolled solicitor of the Supreme Court to appear and act as barrister in any cause in the Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Solicitors to be authorised to appear in Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court in case of necessity.

4. Such provisions of the following Ordinances as may conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are suspended during the operation of this Ordinance :—

(a.) The Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1871.  
 (b.) The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1873.  
 (c.) The Supreme Court (Summary Jurisdiction) Ordinance, 1873.  
 (d.) The Code of Civil Procedure.  
 (e.) The Legal Practitioners Amendment Ordinance 1913.

Provisions of conflicting Ordinances suspended.  
 Ordinances Nos. 1 of 1871, 3 of 1871, 3 of 1873, 4 of 1873, 3 of 1901, and 19 of 1913.

5. This Ordinance shall continue in force for a period of twelve months from the date of its coming into operation.

Duration of Ordinance.

*Objects and Reasons.*

There is at present a scarcity of practising barristers in the Colony, and the recent death of a leader of the bar has reduced its number.

It is desired in the circumstances to empower the Chief Justice as necessity may require to appoint temporarily solicitors to conduct cases in the Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

The Ordinance is introduced to deal with an emergency and is made operative for one year.

J. H. KEMP,  
*Attorney General.*

15th February, 1922.

**NOTICES.**

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

**No. S. 53.—Statement of Sanitary Measures adopted by Hongkong.**

Disease.	Port or Place.	Restrictions in Force.	Authority.
Small-pox.	Shanghai.	Medical examination; quarantine at the discretion of the Health Officer.	Notification No. 512 of 9th December, 1921.
Cholera.	Manila.	Do.	Notification No. 16 of 13th January, 1922.