

DRAFT BILLS.

No. S. 59.—The following amended draft of the bill which was published in the Gazette of the 17th February is published for general information.

A BILL

INTITLED

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:—

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

2. In this Ordinance:— Definition.

“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. It shall be lawful for the Chief Justice to authorise any duly enrolled solicitor of the Supreme Court to appear and act as a barrister in any cause in the Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in any case in which he may think it desirable to do so having regard to all the circumstances. 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:— Provisions of conflicting Ordinances suspended.

- (a.) The Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1871. Ordinances Nos. 1 of 1871, 3 of 1873, 4 of 1873, 3 of 1901, and 19 of 1913.
- (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.

5. This Ordinance shall continue in force until the 31st day of December, 1922. 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 will expire on the 31st December, 1922.

J. H. KEMP,
Attorney General.

23rd February, 1922.