

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Draft Bill.

No. S. 222.—The following bill, which it is proposed to introduce into the Legislative Council shortly, is published for general information.

C.S.O. 3174/18.

[No. 12 :—3.9.26.—1.]

A BILL

INTITULED

An Ordinance to enable the Governor to appoint such person as he may please to be Registrar of Marriages.

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 Marriage Amendment Ordinance, 1926.

Amendment of Ordinance No. 7 of 1875, s. 2. 2. Section 2 of the Marriage Ordinance, 1875, is repealed and the following section is substituted therefor :—

Registrar of Marriages and Deputy Registrars 2.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time to appoint such person as he may please to be Registrar of Marriages, and to appoint Deputy Registrars of Marriages.

(2) It shall not be necessary in any such appointment to name any particular individual and the appointment may be of the holder of an office in the name of the office, in which case the person for the time being performing the duties of such office shall be deemed to have been appointed to be Registrar of Marriages or a Deputy Registrar of Marriages, as the case may be, and all the powers and duties expressed by this or any other Ordinance to be conferred or imposed on the Registrar of Marriages or on a Deputy Registrar of Marriages, as the case may be, shall from time to time be deemed to have been conferred or imposed on the person for the time being performing the duties of such office.

(3) All acts done by any Deputy Registrar of Marriages shall be as valid as if done by the Registrar of Marriages.

Continuation in office of existing Registrar of Marriages and Deputy Registrars of Marriages. Ordinance No. 7 of 1875. 3. Until some person is appointed under section 2 of the Marriage Ordinance, 1875, as amended by section 2 of this Ordinance, to be Registrar of Marriages the Secretary for Chinese Affairs shall continue to be Registrar of Marriages, and until some person is appointed under the said section to be a Deputy Registrar of Marriages all the persons who are Deputy Registrars of Marriages at the commencement of this Ordinance shall continue to be Deputy Registrars of Marriages.

4. No change whatsoever in the holder of the office of Registrar of Marriages or Deputy Registrar of Marriages shall affect in any way the operation or validity of any act, notice, certificate, licence, special licence, consent, veto, decision, determination, declaration, marriage, registration, or proceeding of any kind, authorised or required by the provisions of the Marriage Ordinance, 1875, and the operation and validity of any notice shall not be affected in any way by any breach in the continuity of the public exhibition of such notice due to any change in the situation of the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Validity of certain acts, etc.

Ordinance No. 7 of 1875.

5. The words "Registrar of Marriages" are substituted for the words "Secretary for Chinese Affairs" in the various enactments referred to in the Schedule hereto, as specified therein.

Amendment of various Ordinances. Schedule.

**SCHEDULE.**

Number of Ordinance.	Place where "Registrar of Marriages" is to be substituted for "Secretary for Chinese Affairs".
7 of 1875.	s. 2, lines 1, 6 and 8. s. 4, line 2. s. 5, line 3. s. 6, lines 1 and 4. s. 7, line 1. s. 8, lines 3 and 4. s. 9, line 3. s. 11, line 4. s. 12, lines 1, 4 and 5. s. 13, line 6. s. 14, line 3, and marginal note. s. 15, lines 2 and 3. s. 16, lines 3 and 4, 9; and marginal note. s. 17, lines 1, 7 and 8, and marginal note. s. 19, lines 11 and 12. s. 20, lines 1 and 10. s. 21, lines 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 14 and 15, 18 35, and 38, and marginal note. s. 22, lines 3 and 4, 4, 11, and 12. s. 23, line 1. s. 24, lines 2, and 4. s. 25, line 1. s. 25A, line 1. s. 26, lines 6 and 7, and 10 and 11.

**Schedule,—Continued.**

Number of Ordinance.	Place where "Registrar of Marriages" is to be substituted for "Secretary for Chinese Affairs".
7 of 1875, <i>contd</i>	s. 30, lines 2 and 3. s. 35, line 2. s. 36, line 1. s. 37, line 2, and marginal note. Schedule, wherever the words "Secretary for Chinese Affairs" appear in the forms.
3 of 1893.	s. 2, lines 3 and 22.
6 of 1903.	s. 2, lines 3 and 4. s. 3, lines 3, and 4. s. 4, line 1, and marginal note. s. 5, lines 3 and 4, and marginal note. s. 6, line 4.

*Objects and Reasons.*

It has been decided that when the office of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs is moved to the new government building opposite the Central Market it will be more convenient that the Land Officer, whose office is in the Courts of Justice, should be the Registrar of Marriages. This Ordinance has been drafted in order to enable that change to be made.

J. H. KEMP,  
*Attorney General.*

22nd August, 1926.