

Draft Bills.

No. S. 149.—The following bills are published for general information :—

C.S.O. 2821/27.

[No. 5.—8.4.31.—2.]

A BILL

INTITULED

An Ordinance to amend further the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899.

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

Short title.      1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Merchant Shipping Amendment (No. 2) Ordinance, 1931.

Amendment of Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, s. 4 (2).      2. Section 4 (2) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, is amended by the addition of the following proviso at the end thereof :—

Provided further that it shall be lawful and shall be deemed always to have been lawful for the Governor in Council to grant special exemption, which may be subject to any conditions he may impose, from all or any of the requirements of this sub-section in the case of any ship regularly plying between the Colony and Dosing, Swabue (Shanmi), Ping Hoi, Ma Kuug, Sha Yu Chung, Nam O, Tip Fuk, O Tau or any other non-treaty port if the master and mate shall have passed a special examination before the Harbour Master and shall be approved by him for service on such voyages.

Amendment of Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, s. 44.      3. Section 44 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, is amended by the deletion of the words “a fee of one dollar” in the last line thereof and by the substitution therefor of the words “such fee as the Governor in Council shall prescribe”.

Suspending clause.      4. This Ordinance shall not come into operation unless and until the Governor notifies by Proclamation that it is His Majesty's pleasure not to disallow the same and thereafter it shall come into operation upon such day as the Governor shall notify by the same or any other Proclamation.

*Objects and Reasons.*

It has been the practice to grant special exemption from the requirements of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, to certain small steamers holding Hong Kong passenger licences regularly plying between the Colony and places not open to general trade. The practice would seem to require an amendment of the section, which is relaxed by its proviso in the case of river steamers and trawlers and which was further relaxed in 1917, in the case of river steamers, for a period of 6½ years, by Ordinance No. 13 of 1917 and Notification No. 432 of 1923. Section 2 of this Ordinance accordingly adds a third proviso to section 4 (2) of the principal Ordinance. Section 3 amends section 44 of the principal Ordinance by substituting the words “such fee as the Governor in Council shall prescribe” for the words “a fee of one dollar” which is considered an inadequate sum to charge for the informative abstract which is to be supplied under the section. Section 4 of this Ordinance is the suspending clause usual in the case of an Ordinance relating to Merchant Shipping.

C.S.O. 1 in 4922/31.

[No. 6 :—20.4.31.—1.]

A BILL

INTITULED

An Ordinance to amend the Vaccination Ordinance, 1923.

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

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Vaccination Short title. Amendment Ordinance, 1931.
2. Section 14 of the Vaccination Ordinance, 1923, is amended :—  

Amendment  
of Ordinance  
No. 12 of  
1923, s. 14.

  - (i) by the substitution of the words “six weeks” for the words “six months” in the last line of sub-section (2) ;
  - (ii) by the substitution of the words “six weeks” for the words “one month” in the last line of sub-section (3) ;
  - (iii) by the substitution of the words “six weeks” for the words “six months or one month” in the third line of sub-section (4) ;
  - (iv) by the repeal of sub-section (9).
3. Section 15 of the Vaccination Ordinance, 1923, is amended by the substitution of the words “six weeks” for the words “six months” in the second and fourth lines of paragraph (d).  

Amendment  
of Ordinance  
No. 12 of  
1923, s. 15.
4. Section 21 of the Vaccination Ordinance, 1923, is amended :—  

Amendment  
of Ordinance  
No. 12 of  
1923, s. 21.

  - (i) by the repeal of sub-section (1) ; and by the substitution of the words “six weeks” for the words “six months” in the last line of sub-section (2) and in the second line of sub-section (3).

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*Objects and Reasons.*

This Ordinance reduces the period of grace for unvaccinated children born within the Colony or admitted to school therein, from six months to six weeks and repeals the sub-section of section 14 of the principal Ordinance which exempted guardians from penalties for not causing children to be vaccinated during the summer months. Sub-section (3) of that section is altered so as to allow six weeks instead of one month as the period of grace in the case of children brought here for the first time. This Ordinance also repeals a sub-section of section 21 of the principal Ordinance the effect of which is spent.

C. G. ALABASTER,  
*Attorney General.*

March, 1931.