

Draft Bill.

**No. S. 459.**—The following Bill is published for general information:—

[No. 18:—26.9.33.—2.]

A BILL

INTITULED

An Ordinance to amend further the Asiatic Emigration Ordinance, 1915.

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 Asiatic Emigration Ordinance, 1938. Short title.

2. The Fourth Schedule to the Asiatic Emigration Ordinance, 1915, is amended by the addition to regulation 2 thereof of the following words: “, nor, where the number of emigrants on board exceeds fifty, unless there are on board a medical officer and interpreter duly approved of by such Emigration Officer.” Amendment of Ordinance No. 30 of 1915, Fourth Schedule, r. 2.

3. The Fifth Schedule to the Asiatic Emigration Ordinance, 1915, is amended by the addition to regulation 3 thereof of the following paragraph, as condition (4)— Amendment of Ordinance No. 30 of 1915, Fifth Schedule, r. 3.

“(4) a medical officer and interpreter duly approved of by the Emigration Officer shall be carried where the number of emigrants on board exceeds fifty.”

4. This Ordinance shall not come into operation until His Majesty's confirmation of the same shall have been proclaimed in Hong Kong by the Governor. Suspending clause.

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*Objects and Reasons.*

1. The provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Asiatic Emigration Ordinance, 1915, requiring a duly approved medical officer and interpreter to be carried, have no counterpart in the case of short voyages, which are regulated by the Fourth and Fifth Schedules to that Ordinance.

2. A British ship carrying a large number of Chinese emigrants recently arrived at Saigon from Hong Kong with a case of smallpox on board.

3. The voyage to Saigon is of less than seven days' duration, but it is considered that it should be declared by the Governor to be a short voyage for the purposes of the principal Ordinance.

4. The object of the present amendment is to require a doctor and interpreter to be carried by ships having on board more than fifty emigrants, even on short voyages, and thus to assimilate the requirements of the Asiatic Emigration Ordinance to those of section 303 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

5. Clauses 2 and 3 of this Bill effect this amendment by adding to regulation 2 of the Fourth Schedule and to regulation 3 of the Fifth Schedule to the principal Ordinance which apply to short voyages words requiring a medical officer and interpreter duly approved by the Emigration Officer to be carried where the number of emigrants on board exceeds fifty.

6. Clause 4 of the Bill is the suspending clause required by the proviso to section 2 of the Chinese Passengers Act, 1855, (18 & 19 Vict., c. 104).

C. G. ALABASTER,  
*Attorney General.*

*November, 1938.*