

Order of the Day

1. Payment of Members' Expenses (Amendment) Bill 2018 – Clauses considered

Mr Cretney to move.

The President: Hon. Members, the business before us this morning, Item 1 clauses stage of the Payment of Members' Expenses (Amendment) Bill 2018, and I call on the mover, Mr Cretney, please.

Mr Cretney: Thank you, Mr President; and can I apologise for getting things slightly out of sync last Tuesday – I had reverted to House of Keys mode, I think.

So clause 1 of this Bill provides the short title of the resulting Act. It will come into operation on the day on which Royal Assent is announced.

I beg to move that clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The President: Secunder, Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson: I beg to second, sir, and reserve my remarks.

The President: The motion is that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

Clause 2.

Mr Cretney: Yes, thank you, Mr President.

Clause 2 amends the Payment of Members' Expenses Act 1989. The newly inserted section 7A will prevent a Member who has been suspended from Tynwald or either Branch from receiving any payment under section 2, 3 or 4 of that Act and from receiving any additional payment under section 1(2) of that Act in respect of the period of suspension.

I beg to move.

The President: Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson: I beg to second, sir, and reserve my remarks.

The President: Yes, Mr Crookall.

Mr Crookall: Thank you, Mr President; and I thank you for the last time we sat on this.

If I can just ask the mover of this: can I take it, just for clarification, what is meant by this then is that if a Member is suspended from Tynwald, or either of the Houses, that they also are suspended from their departmental duties and there is no payment at all – even though the Departments would not have had any input into the suspension from Tynwald if an occurrence was to take place in Tynwald, for instance, and the President suspends them from Tynwald? They are then automatically suspended from a Department, for which they will get no remuneration at all until an apology, or whatever, is given to sort this issue out?

The President: Mr Cretney.

Mr Cretney: My understanding is that that would be a matter for the Chief Minister in terms of the Department. I do not think there is an automatic suspension from Department activity, but it would be a matter that the Chief Minister would consider, and the Council of Ministers.

I would have thought, though, that given such circumstances it would be normal practice for such action to follow on from what had happened in Tynwald.

The President: Any other comment?

Mr Cretney: And even if they were still in the Department, Mr President, they would not get paid for that work.

Mr Crookall: Right, that was my clarification. If they were suspended from Tynwald or Legislative Council or the House of Keys could they still do departmental work? And it sounds like, from what you were saying, there would be no remuneration at all.

So whether they were suspended from the Department or not, would be for the Minister or the Chief Minister?

Mr Cretney: Yes.

Mr Crookall: Right, okay.
Thank you, Mr President.

The President: Mr Cretney, do you wish to make any concluding remarks?

Mr Cretney: Well, only to thank Hon. Members for their interest in the legislation; and I hope that clarifies matters for the Hon. Member.

The President: I put clause 2. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

**Payment of Members' Expenses (Amendment) Bill 2018 –
Standing Order 4.3(2) suspended to take Third Reading**

Mr Cretney: Mr President, may I be bold again, and given that the Bill only has one operative clause, I seek the leave of Council to move that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Bill to be read a third time at this sitting?

Mr Henderson: I second.

The President: And seconded.
I put it to Council: is that agreed?

Members: Agreed.

**Payment of Members' Expenses (Amendment) Bill 2018 –
Third Reading approved**

The President: Mr Cretney.

Mr Cretney: Thank you very much, Hon. Members.

I beg to move that the Payment of Members' Expenses (Amendment) Bill 2018 be read a third time, and I thank Hon. Members for their support.

The President: Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson: I beg to second, sir, and reserve my remarks.

The President: I put the motion that the Payment of Members' Expenses (Amendment) Bill be read for the third time. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

Thank you, Hon. Members.