

Order of the Day

1. Regulation of Care (Amendment) Bill 2019 – Third Reading approved as amended

Mrs Sharpe to move:

That the Regulation of Care (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read a third time.

The President: Item 1 on our Order Paper is the Regulation of Care (Amendment) Bill and I call on the mover, Hon. Member, Mrs Sharpe.

Mrs Sharpe: Thank you, Mr President.

Before I begin I believe that my colleague, Miss August-Hanson, has an amendment which she would like to put forward. I realise this is the Third Reading and that we must have six Members who agree to that, but I would very much like to endorse the amendment which is being put forward in Miss August-Hanson's name.

The President: Could I ask Miss August-Hanson to move that the amendment be taken, then I will seek the leave of Council.

If you would like just to formally move that the amendment be taken at the Third Reading.

Miss August-Hanson: Thank you, Mr President.

I would like to move the amendment to clause 2:

Page 4, line 8 after "medical practitioner" insert «within the meaning of the Health Care Professionals Act 2014».

It currently refers to a fully registered person under the Medical Act 1985 which was repealed under section 15 of the Health Care Professionals Act 2014. Section 13 of the Health Care Professionals Act amends the definition and this will likely support interpretations of the Act. It is a technical, clean amendment that I hope my colleagues on Council can support.

Thank you, Mr President.

The President: Does somebody second? Thank you.

I put to Council that leave be given to debate the new amendment. Is that agreed, Hon. Members? (**Members:** Agreed.) Any against? No.

Miss August-Hanson.

Miss August-Hanson: I have not much more to add, thank you, Mr President, but it is quite a simple amendment so I am content to hear any of my other Members on Council if they have a problem with it.

The President: Mrs Poole-Wilson.

Mrs Poole-Wilson: I am happy to second it, Mr President. I accept it is a tidying amendment.

The President: Does any Member wish to speak to the amendment? In that case, I put the amendment as moved by Miss August-Hanson. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

Mrs Sharpe, now the Third Reading of the Bill as amended.

Mrs Sharpe: Thank you, Mr President.

Hon. Members, I am pleased to move the Third Reading of the Regulation of Care (Amendment) Bill 2019.

I would like to thank Hon. Members for the consideration given to the Bill at the Second Reading and clauses stage. In particular I would like to thank the Hon. Member, Miss August-Hanson, for seconding during the First Reading and the Hon. Member, Mr Crookall, for seconding during Second Reading and clauses stage.

Two questions raised by Hon. Members remain outstanding and I would like, with your permission, Mr President, to address those now.

During the First Reading, the Hon. Member, Mrs Maska, asked whether any medical agencies are registered here in the Isle of Man. I can inform the Hon. Member that there is one nurses' agency and one independent medical agency registered in the Isle of Man.

The Hon. Member, Mrs Poole-Wilson asked, during clauses, with reference to clause 2 subsection (2)(d) under what circumstances a business might be prescribed, 'not to be an independent medical agency'. As I stated during clauses, the Department has never yet exempted a business, therefore unfortunately it is not possible to give any examples, hypothetical or otherwise, to the Hon. Member at this stage. The main reasons for an independent medical agency to be exempt from registration are captured in paragraph (2)(a), (b) and (c) and I trust this explanation is satisfactory to the Hon. Member at this stage. **(Mrs Poole-Wilson: Thank you.)**

As stated during previous Readings of this Bill, the Bill will ensure that those businesses supplying or introducing doctors, nurses or midwives solely to the Department will be exempt from the requirement to register under the Regulation of Care Act 2013.

This will ensure that long-standing relationships with those businesses remain and that those businesses will continue to provide the Department with workers who are essential to the delivery of health and social care.

I would like again to thank Hon. Members for their contributions to the Second Reading of the Bill and their considerations of the clauses stage; and thank the Hon. Member of Council, Miss August-Hanson, for her helpful amendment.

Mr President, I beg to move that the Regulation of Care (Amendment) Bill 2019 be read for the third time.

Mr Crookall: I beg to second, Mr President.

The President: Hon. Members, I put the question that the Regulation of Care (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.