

Sunbeds Bill 2012
Third Reading approved

3.2. Mrs Cannell to move:

That the Sunbeds Bill be read a third time.

The Speaker: We turn now to the Sunbeds Bill, and I call on the mover, Mrs Cannell.

Mrs Cannell: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

As previously stated in this Hon. House, this Bill is a stand-alone Bill, the provisions of which initially started life in the Public Health (Amendment) Bill which has been on the legislative programme for some time.

The Bill makes provision for the control of sunbeds, particularly for those under the age of 18 years. The Bill, amongst other things, imposes requirements on sunbed operators to make every effort to ensure their clients are over 18 years of age and enables the Department to investigate offences and to impose fixed penalties where breaches occur.

This Bill is intended to protect the future health of the young people of this Island by regulating the use of sunbeds, which is done elsewhere. It is done in the United Kingdom – in Scotland, in Ireland and also in Wales. By regulating the use of sunbeds here, we will ensure that detailed guidelines are also in place.

Mr Speaker, I move that this Bill be read a third time.

The Speaker: Mr Gawne.

Mr Gawne: I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

The Speaker: Mr Karran.

Mr Karran: Vainstyr Loayreyder, could the mover of the Bill inform this Hon. House, will there be public consultation before the Order is put in Tynwald to actually bring this Bill into force? Has representation been made by the different owners of the different sunbed operators to the mover of the Bill?

A Member: Prey on the young.

Mr Karran: Could the mover just clarify that she has had information from them on this? It would be interesting to know, as this Hon. Member actually asked them to make representation about their disputes as far as the Public Health issue is concerned.

Whilst I have to say that I find it very difficult to believe that there is no Public Health issue, especially if someone responsible is not there, could she possibly give that assurance that there will be some sort of public intervention, as far as when she is proposing to bring it back to Tynwald in order to bring in this piece of legislation?

The Speaker: I call Mrs Cannell to reply.

Mrs Cannell: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I thank the Hon. Member for his enquiry, it being the first one that has been raised on the issue of this Government Bill.

Can I reassure the Hon. Member that I have been given all the paperwork in respect of this legislation, including the consultation exercise results. The consultation took place between 1st March 2011 and 31st May 2011. I can say that there were very few responses to the public consultation. However, there was one telephone response and that was also a letter – included with it, a number of survey forms from one of the sunbed operators.

Now, clearly, it would come down to one particular sunbed operator, who is taking issue with the fact that currently they are able to put these machines – slot machines, if you like – in premises, and only go in perhaps once a day to empty the coins from the slot machines and to make sure that the place is clean and presentable before the commencement of business the next day. There is nowhere, within these premises and others like them, notifications or advice or guidelines to those using the sunbeds and particularly the young people under the age of 18, who might be using them for the first time. Indeed, there are no attendants at all, if you should get into difficulties or a problem, in these premises.

The reason we are bringing this in is that there is very strong evidence that suggests – surveys were conducted by the World Health Organisation – that it is within the first two decades of a young person's life that

we are susceptible to developing skin cancer later on in life. So this is one of the main reasons why we need to bring this sort of legislation, to protect our young people.

There is also a great deal of evidence and fact that shows... and I have seen some very disturbing photographs of youngsters as young as 14 who have been into these unmanned coin-operated premises where there is no attendant in place and have received, some of them, up to 60% burns and been admitted into hospital the same day in intensive care and on a drip, simply because they did not feel that they had had sufficient time on the sunbed in order to give them a tan, so felt they should put more coinage in. Again, had an attendant been in place, had there been posters put up and guidance out up around the sunbed salon, then that young person may well have thought twice about putting more coinage in and actually risking life and limb.

It is for all of these reasons... In fact, the Department tried a while ago, before the public consultation, to ask sunbed operators on a voluntary basis to put up the necessary guidance, particularly for first-time users of sunbeds, with the younger person in mind. That request was acceded to, but the posters were very quickly removed from these premises and they never attempted to put fresh ones up, so it became time for the Island to then stop bringing legislation forward, which I have had the pleasure to do today in the House.

What I can say is that the regulations that will flow from this legislation of course will be laid before Tynwald and will require approval. As written in the Green Bill before the Hon. Members today, the regulations will require Tynwald approval before they come into effect. As the Hon. Member, with his considerable time in this House, knows perfectly well, the Bill cannot function without meat on its bone, and the meat is in the regulations.

I hope that satisfies the Hon. Member. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move.

Mr Watterson: I bet he's glad he asked!

The Speaker: I put the question that the Sunbeds Bill be read a third time. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.