

**Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill 2014 –
Clauses considered**

The President: Clause 1.

Mr Turner: Clause 1 is the title and expiry.

Subsection (1) provides for the short title and expiry of the Act. The Act has no commencement date specified in it, so it will come into operation on the day on which it is passed.

Subsection (2) provides for the Act to expire at midnight on 31st May 2015.

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

Mr Downie: I beg to second, Madam President, and reserve my remarks.

The President: The motion –
Did you wish to speak?

The Lord Bishop: Just, Madam President, if I may.

The removal of subsection (2), would that not simply solve the problem that Mr Downie raised earlier?

A Member: No.

The President: The mover to reply to that point.

Mr Turner: Thank you, Madam President.

The Lord Bishop is partly right in that it would go some way, but there would then need to be an amendment to clause 2 to allow racing on Sundays between the hours of 1.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. I think that would be a very useful and well-meaning amendment if somebody wanted to move it, but it would cause a delay in the time; and the reason that the Department wishes for this to go through today is so that we can get the process ready.

So I think I would urge Members to support the Bill as it is written on this occasion, otherwise... if we had more time it would have been worth exploring, but I would urge against that at this stage, Madam President.

I beg to move.

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

Clause 2.

Mr Turner: This clause permits the making of a Road Racing Order to authorise racing to take place on the Billown Circuit on Sunday 31st May 2015, despite the restrictions on Sunday racing contained in section 1(2) of the Road Races Act 1982.

Those restrictions currently mean that a Road Race Order cannot authorise road racing on a Sunday, except in certain circumstances. Those circumstances allow a Road Race Order to authorise the use of a road for races on *one Sunday only* during the TT and Manx Grand Prix.

However, with regard to racing at the Billown Circuit, a Road Race Order may only authorise Sunday racing on the Sunday *following* the conclusion of the TT Races, and then only in the event that racing scheduled for the *Saturday* at Billown has been postponed.

I hope Members follow that!

I beg to move that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill.

Mr Downie: I beg to second, Madam President, and reserve my remarks.

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Butt.

Mr Butt: Thank you, Madam President.

There is, of course, a church on the circuit which is cut off when the roads are closed and there has been an assumption today that they have been consulted and agree to this.

I wonder could the mover confirm that they have been part of the consultation on this Bill and they are content for this to happen?

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Downie.

Mr Downie: Yes, I think the mover, when he was explaining the current situation, actually summed up part of the problem that we have because the ordinary person does not understand that when races are cancelled they can be held on such a day, and so on; and that is why I think that, rather than trying to push an emergency provision into this Bill at the present time, it is proper that they bring forward this new piece of legislation and they have a proper consultation process.

At the end of the day all of these events take place in the Isle of Man because of the goodwill that is afforded to us; and if we lose the goodwill and support that we have got from the greater community, I think it would be a sad day in the Isle of Man.

So I think the Bill as it is written is fine and it does deal with that specific issue that has happened this year; but in saying that, I think Mr Turner made it quite clear the other provisions to do with the 1982 Act have got complex, and people just do not understand them any more – and I think it is important that they are addressed as soon as possible.

The President: Mr Crowe.

Mr Crowe: Thank you, Madam President.

Subject to this Bill going through, just talking about informing the general public: I suppose, as usual, notices will be published informing the public of this. But would it be the intention of the Department to inform each and every resident living on or near the Southern 100 course, or the Billown Circuit as it is?

Thank you, Madam President.

Mr Downie: The organisers would do that.

The President: The mover to reply.

Mr Turner: Thank you, Madam President.

Again, I thank Mr Downie, who I know is very much involved in the road racing organisation on the Island.

Yes, they have consulted the Vicar of Malew, who was very keen. The church is very active indeed, on the TT as well, around the TT course. Many of the churches get really involved in having places for people to watch; they serve teas and refreshments and use it as a great fundraising opportunity, and members of the congregation get involved.

It was also recorded in the other place by the Minister of the Department that the organisers have consulted with the Vicar of Malew, because his church is the only one actually affected by the event. And, just as an aside, they have also spoken at length with the likes of the Fire Brigade, Bus Vannin, Castletown Commissioners, the Police and Ambulance Service who are obviously involved anyway with the event, and they have all confirmed that there are no problems with these proposals.

Mr Crowe mentions the residents and will they be notified: I know with four-wheel motorsport, which is governed by the MSA, not the ACU, the MSA actually require organisers to personally visit each property on rally and race stages and deliver notices of to each resident. I am not quite sure what the ACU requirements are as I am only really involved on the periphery of two-wheeled sport, but I would imagine there will be... I would hope the Department will insist. The great thing about this is the Department can actually put conditions on organisers.

So, in giving the Department this enabling power to make the Road Race Order, the Department as a responsible authority will be able to put conditions in there to say the organisers must do 'XYZ'; and I know we have Mr Hannon from the Department here in the officer's gallery who will take note of that, and when it comes to drafting the Order and liaising with the organisers we can ensure that there is proper public notification done with residents and businesses on the course.

So I hope that will answer Mr Crowe.

So, what was that – clause 2? I beg to move clause 2 stands part of the Bill.

The President: The motion is that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill. Those in favour, please say aye; against no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.