

## 2.4. Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2015 – Third Reading approved

Mr Watterson to move:

*That the Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2015 be read the third time and be sent to the Council.*

**The Speaker:** We turn now to the Third Reading stage.  
Mr Watterson.

**Mr Watterson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank Hon. Members for giving me the support in suspending Standing Orders to take all the Readings in one sitting. I do appreciate that this is an unusual thing to do.

What was an inadvertent oversight has led to this urgent requirement to reinstate the Chief Minister's power to delegate other persons to undertake statutory functions which rest with the Attorney General in the Attorney General's absence.

The Acting Attorney General is, of course, still able to carry out the relevant functions, and once a Solicitor General has been appointed they will also be able to assume such responsibilities. However, there will always be a possibility for another person to be required to undertake such duties and, as such, this Bill is required in order for the relevant areas of Government to function during such times.

I do thank Hon. Members for their support today and I beg to move that this Bill be read for the third time.

**The Speaker:** Mr Teare.

**Mr Teare:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Before moving that the Third Reading do take place, I would just like to thank Hon. Members and also to apologise to them as well.

I also thank Mr Watterson for bringing this legislation forward at such short notice.  
With that, I do second that this Reading now take place.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member, Mr Quirk.

**Mr Quirk:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I just want to thank the Attorney General's Chamber and *certain* Ministers, anyway... to respond to Members in that way, because I think it is useful that when things are wrong we can act as one unit and pull things together; and that is what this parliament is about.

**A Member:** Hear. Hear.

**The Speaker:** Mr Watterson to reply.

**Mr Watterson:** Yes, I would like to thank my seconder and Mr Quirk for the dramatic show of unity, and I do appreciate Hon. Members' assistance in this matter.  
I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, I put the question that the 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.