STATEMENT OF COMPATIBILITY
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

Appropriation (Parliament) (Interim) Bill 2020

Opening paragraphs


In my opinion, the Appropriation (Parliament) (Interim) Bill 2020, as introduced to the Legislative Council, is compatible with the human rights protected by the Charter Act. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of Bill
The purpose of the Appropriation (Parliament) (Interim) Bill 2020 is to provide authority for interim appropriation from the Consolidated Fund to the Parliament in respect of the first six months of the 2020-21 financial year.

Human Rights Issues

1. Human rights protected by the Charter Act that are relevant to the Bill
Given the nature of the Bill, it does not contain any provisions which engage with rights or responsibilities under the Charter, and is therefore fully compatible with its requirements.

2. Consideration of reasonable limitations – section 7(2)
As the Appropriation (Parliament) (Interim) Bill 2020 does not raise any human rights issues, it does not limit any human rights and therefore it is not necessary to consider section 7(2) of the Charter Act.

Conclusion
I consider that the Appropriation (Parliament) (Interim) Bill 2020 is compatible with the Charter Act because it does not raise any human rights issues.

Jaclyn Symes MP
Minister for Regional Development
Tabling of Statement of Compatibility


Second Reading Speech

I move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Honourable Members will be aware that the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has created, in addition to extensive social and economic issues, logistical issues that prevent society from functioning in its usual manner. This has resulted in it being impossible for the State to develop and introduce a Budget at this time and for the immediate future.

This Bill provides appropriation authority for payments from the Consolidated Fund to the Parliament in respect of the first six months of the 2020-21 financial year, to ensure the activities of Parliament can continue to be funded and function until a State budget for the 2020-21 financial year can be introduced. It is the Government’s intention that once a State budget for the 2020-21 financial year is introduced, the annual appropriation Bill for Parliament will supplant and absorb the provisions of this Bill.

The appropriations in this Bill are based on half the amounts provided in the 2019-20 Budget, indexed for inflation, for the provision of outputs.

In line with the wishes of the Presiding Officers, appropriations in this Bill are made to the departments of the Parliament. This includes provision for three integrity agencies which were funded through the Department of Premier and Cabinet in 2019-20, but which from 1 July 2020 come within the financial responsibilities of the Parliament, namely: the Victorian Ombudsman; the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission; and the Victorian Inspectorate.

The total appropriation authority sought in this Bill is $116.1 million for Parliament in respect of the period from 1 July until 31 December 2020.

I commend the Bill to the house.