

~~Some other reforms are also included in the bill that are not based on Mr Moynihan's report but which will improve consistency between the courts. For example, the bill includes amendments to allow the state's Magistrates Courts to use verdict and judgement records for issuing orders, consistent with the Supreme and District Courts.~~

~~Amendments are also proposed to allow a bail application to be made by remote communication device to a magistrate at a location determined by the Chief Magistrate which is outside the relevant district. This amendment will provide additional flexibility to the Chief Magistrate to manage consideration of urgent bail applications over public holidays, vacation periods and on other occasions such as when a resident magistrate is ill. These amendments recognise that bail is a serious court process and provide that applications be made only if certain conditions are met.~~

~~Some other miscellaneous amendments are also included in the bill. The amendments to the Public Trustee Act 1978 will make it easier for Queenslanders to locate any unclaimed money held by the state. The bill also amends the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 to clarify that an adjudicator does not have jurisdiction in debt recovery matters. The bill amends the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 to clarify the registrar's powers in relation to the suspension of driver licences and reinstatement of debts. Finally, the bill includes an amendment to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 to rectify an inconsistency relating to the recovery of costs.~~

~~The second stage of reforms in response to Mr Moynihan's report will see an overhaul and consolidation of criminal justice procedure legislation to ensure efficient, consistent and modern processes are in place. The government will be continuing to consult stakeholders and the community on the development of this legislation.~~

~~Implementation of outstanding recommendations in Mr Moynihan's report, including, as I noted earlier, further reforms to expand the jurisdiction of Magistrates Courts to hear and determine indictable offences as stated in the government's response to the report, will be considered following an evaluation of the impacts of these initial stages. This approach will provide a solid evidence base for consideration of further reform.~~

~~The reforms in this bill and those to be delivered in the second stage are a significant step towards ensuring more efficient and effective delivery of justice in our state. The Bligh government is committed to the ongoing improvement and reform of our justice system. I commend the bill to the House.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Mr Springborg, adjourned.~~

RACING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

Hon. PJ LAWLOR (Southport—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading) (12.48 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

The Deputy Speaker read the following message—

MESSAGE

RACING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2010

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PENELOPE ANNE WENSLEY, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the Racing Act 2002, the Racing Regulation 2003, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Wagering Act 1998 and the Wagering Regulation 1999 for particular purposes.

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 13 APR 2010

Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 April 2010, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010.

First Reading

Hon. PJ LAWLOR (Southport—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading) (12.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Racing Act 2002, the Racing Regulation 2003, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Wagering Act 1998 and the Wagering Regulation 1999 for particular purposes. I present the explanatory notes, and I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Tabled paper: Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010.

Tabled paper: Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010, explanatory notes.

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Second Reading

Hon. PJ LAWLOR (Southport—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading) (12.49 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce amendments to the Racing Act 2002 which will amalgamate the three existing racing control bodies, Queensland Racing, Harness Racing Queensland and Greyhounds Queensland, into one control body, known as Racing Queensland Ltd. It is no secret that the racing industry's capital infrastructure has become run down and threatens the competitive ability of the industry going forward.

The Bligh government has committed to the largest injection of capital from the government in the history of Queensland's racing industry. In excess of \$80 million will be provided over four years from July 2010 to June 2014. These funds will be delivered by a racing industry levy of 50 per cent of net wagering tax collected by the government.

The current multiple control body structure results in duplication of effort and prevents decisions being made in the best interests of the entire Queensland racing industry.

To ensure this money delivers the best possible outcomes for the industry and a coordinated approach is taken to industry management and development, a single control body for the Queensland racing industry will be established. This new combined control body, Racing Queensland Ltd, will be the racing control body for all three codes of racing and will act in the best interests of the entire racing industry.

This bill will amend the Racing Act 2002, known as the Racing Act, to:

- establish this one control body for the three codes of racing;
- ensure that the new control body has the necessary powers to manage the three codes of racing;
- abolish entities established under the Racing Act that can be established administratively by the control body;
- reduce the administrative burden and costs to a control body; and
- clarify provisions relating to taking and dealing with samples from licensed animals.

The bill also amends the Wagering Act 1998 and the Gaming Machine Act 1991 to fund and enable the payment of monies under the Racing Industry Capital Development Scheme. The bill transfers the staff, assets, liabilities and responsibilities of the current thoroughbred, harness and greyhound control bodies to the new control body.

The bill ensures employees earning total remuneration of up to \$100,000 per annum will be employed on the terms and conditions of employment at least equivalent to their current arrangements for at least two years.

To ensure stability within the new control body structure, the initial directors of Racing Queensland Ltd will hold office until 2014 and then two directors will retire on a rotational basis every two years. The initial directors of Racing Queensland Ltd will be the current five directors from the existing thoroughbred control body, one from the harness control body and one from the greyhound control body.

The directors of Racing Queensland Ltd will be the only members of the company. It has been shown that a model which provides membership of the control body company to persons and entities licensed by the control body does not work and is not in the best interests of the racing industry.

After expiry of the initial term, a selection panel will be responsible for appointing directors to the control body. It will be made up of—

- the chair or deputy chair of the control body;
- one person who is Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors who is a sitting member of an ASX Top 200 listed company; and
- one person appointed by the director-general of the department responsible for racing.

In making decisions, the directors of Racing Queensland Ltd will not only be bound by the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the Racing Act 2002 but will also have to have regard to the best interests of the thoroughbred, harness and greyhound codes as a whole.

The remuneration of the directors can only be varied with the approval of the chief executive officer of the department responsible for racing. The constitution of Racing Queensland Ltd establishes

advisory committees for non-TAB racing in all codes, so maintaining thoroughbred-specific bodies in legislation is now redundant.

The requirement for the thoroughbred control body to pay seven per cent of its net UNiTAB product fee as prize money for non-TAB racing, or for supporting non-TAB racing, is retained with the necessary percentage amendments made to reflect the new combined control body structure.

The expiration of a control body approval every six years results in unnecessary costs and an administrative burden to control bodies. The granting of an approval for an indefinite period rather than for a period of six years will avoid unnecessary costs and reduce the administrative burden to both the control body and government.

The bill clarifies the powers of a control body and ensures that it has the necessary powers to effectively operate within the highly competitive and rapidly changing wagering and racing environment. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr McArdle, adjourned.

~~HEALTH LEGISLATION (HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW) AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Resumed from 25 March (see p. 1176), on motion of Mr Lucas—~~

~~That the bill be now read a second time.~~

~~Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (12.55 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this bill. I say at the outset that the LNP will be supporting this bill. I thank the minister and his staff for the briefing yesterday allowed to me and my policy adviser.~~

~~In March 2008 it was COAG which signed an international agreement for a national registration and accreditation scheme for health professionals, thereby establishing a national registration and accreditation scheme itself. This COAG agreement followed recommendations from the Productivity Commission that there should be a single national registration board and a single national accreditation board for health professionals in relation to their education and training. In November 2008 the Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Bill 2008, or bill A as it was known, was passed in the Queensland parliament to establish the administrative arrangements for the national scheme. Queensland was the host state for that bill, as it was for the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009. That bill was passed by this chamber in 2009.~~

~~After the successful passage of this, the third and final piece of legislation to establish the national scheme in Queensland, similar legislation will then require passage through all of the other state and territory parliaments of the Commonwealth. The intergovernmental agreement at point 2.6 stated it was agreed to establish the scheme by 1 July 2010 and that Queensland, as I said, was to be the host state. Unfortunately, at this stage the scheme may not be a truly national scheme by 1 July of this year, as indications are that South Australia and Tasmania may not pass the required legislation within the time frame.~~

~~The intergovernmental agreement, which was the cornerstone of bill A, was, to say the least, a poorly thought out and ludicrous document placing the education and training of health professionals in the hands of state, territory and Commonwealth health ministers and stripping the colleges, professional bodies and other entities of the power they had exercised so well for many years.~~

~~The ministerial council established within the intergovernmental agreement has significant powers which overrode the long term effective service provided by the professions, institutions, colleges and professional organisations.~~

~~The principal objectives of the national scheme for the regulation of the registration and accreditation of health professionals and students are, firstly, protecting the public by ensuring that only suitably trained and qualified persons are registered; secondly, facilitating workforce mobility by reducing the administrative burden for health professionals; thirdly, facilitating the provision of high quality education for health practitioners; and, fourthly, facilitating access to services provided by health practitioners in accordance with the public interest.~~

~~The scheme will cover 14 health professions including dental, nursing and midwifery, optometry, pharmacy, podiatry, physiotherapy, medical, chiropractic, psychology, osteopathy, Chinese medicine, medical radiation practice, occupational therapy, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice. Initially, 10 professions will come into line on 1 July 2010, with the other four by 1 July 2012.~~

~~Pursuant to the national scheme, a number of bodies are being established including the ministerial council itself made up of all state and territory health ministers and the federal health minister.~~