

~~calendar year after the calendar year in which the last election was held. This is the process which fixes the specific date on which the election would be held every four years. The 2015 election was due in March and the 2012 and 2009 elections were held in March.~~

~~The bill provides for exceptional circumstances in which the Governor can and must dissolve the Legislative Assembly and issue a writ for a general election prior to that four year period. This includes motions of no confidence in the government, a rejection of supply and also other established constitutional conventions. There is also a provision for which the polling day can be postponed by up to 35 days for exceptional circumstances such as if a federal election were called for the same date as the due date for the state election or if there were a natural disaster, such as a cyclone or flood, which made it impossible to hold the election on that date.~~

~~We have also provided a process whereby this particular bill is not presented to the Governor for assent unless it has obviously been passed by the Legislative Assembly but also after it has been approved by a majority of electors at a referendum held on a Saturday at least two months after this bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly. Finally, the bill provides that should the bill be passed by the Legislative Assembly and approved at a referendum it would not commence until after the next general election, meaning that the 57th Parliament would be the first to have a fixed four year term. We are presently in the 55th Parliament.~~

~~Queensland has a unique democratic system whereby we have a unicameral parliament, the only one in Australia. While we do have a more robust committee system, it does not replicate what is seen as an upper house or house of review that is in place in other jurisdictions. While this bill is not providing for the re-establishment of an upper house, the issue of representative democracy and confidence in the government are fundamentally important issues for Queenslanders.~~

~~Finally, we note that the government has announced an inquiry into this issue, to report back to the House on 9 November. While we understand the notion of proceeding down this path, the LNP believes that there is no better time for this issue to be looked at and, more importantly, acted upon than the present. The local government elections in March next year would perhaps be an opportunity for a statewide referendum on this issue.~~

~~We look forward to the government's support of this bill and also its support on working towards a referendum on this issue in the near future. I commend the bill to the House. >~~

~~First Reading~~

~~Mr WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (12.02 pm): 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.~~

~~Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee~~

~~Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.~~

<CONSTITUTION (FIXED TERM PARLIAMENT) REFERENDUM BILL

Introduction



Mr WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (12.02 pm): <I present a bill for an act to provide for a referendum on the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Bill 2015>. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Referendum Bill 2015.

Tabled paper: Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Referendum Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

As indicated in my earlier speech, this bill would follow upon the passage of the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Bill 2015. It provides for a referendum to be held under the Referendums Act 1997.

The bill provides that any such referendum should be held on a day appointed by the Governor in Council that is at least two months after the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Bill

2015 is passed by this assembly and that a person who is entitled to vote at an election for the members of the Legislative Assembly is entitled to vote at that referendum. I should add for completeness that there was a referendum on the issue of extending the terms of parliament in Queensland from three years to four years—although they were not to be fixed terms—on 21 March 1991. That measure narrowly failed. There was a yes vote of 48.8 per cent and a no vote of 51.2 per cent.

For historical purposes, it should also be noted that there have been seven statewide referendums in Queensland, with only two being successful. The last was held on 22 February 1992 and that dealt with the issue of daylight savings. Given the length of time that has passed since this issue was last considered by Queenslanders and the changes in other jurisdictions towards fixed four-year terms, we believe there is no more opportune time for this issue to be revisited. I commend the bill to the House.>

First Reading

Mr WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (12.04 pm): 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.

Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Mr WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (12.04 pm), by leave, without notice: <I move>—

That the Finance and Administration Committee:

- (1) consider the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Referendum Bill as part of its inquiry into the introduction of four-year terms for the Queensland parliament referred by the House on 15 September 2015; and
- (2) under the provisions of standing order 136, report to the House on the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Constitution Fixed Term Parliament Referendum Bill by 9 November 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

~~<HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES COMMITTEE~~

~~Report, Motion to Take Note~~



~~**Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.06 pm): <I move>—~~

~~That the House take note of report No. 2 of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee on personal health promotion interventions using telephone and web-based technologies.~~

~~The referral charged the committee with inquiring into the evidence for the effectiveness of health coaching interventions to increase physical activity, improve nutrition and reduce weight, taking note of both the experience in other jurisdictions and potential opportunities for collaboration and cooperation.~~

~~As referenced in my foreword to the report, *The health of Queenslanders 2014* report of the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeanette Young, states that Queenslanders enjoy one of the longest life expectancies in the world and our health continues to improve. However, while Queenslanders are living longer, we are not always living longer in good health, with chronic disease, most notably type 2 diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease causing approximately 80 per cent of deaths, hospitalisations and allocated expenditure in Queensland in 2012.~~

~~The evidence is well understood that increasing physical activity, reducing weight and improving nutrition reduces an individual's risk of developing chronic disease. Yet people are becoming less healthy generally. The reasons for this are many and varied. However, the economic burden of ill health due to non-communicable diseases like obesity, diabetes, heart disease and some cancers is alarmingly widespread. Health promotion presents an opportunity to positively influence the health~~