



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Health, Social Services and
Public Safety

OFFICIAL REPORT (Hansard)

Health and Social Care (Amendment) Bill:
Clause-by-clause Scrutiny

27 November 2013

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

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Members present for all or part of the proceedings:

Ms Maeve McLaughlin (Chairperson)

Mr Jim Wells (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Roy Beggs

Mr Mickey Brady

Ms Pam Brown

Mr Gordon Dunne

Mr Samuel Gardiner

Mr Kieran McCarthy

The Chairperson: I remind members that this is the formal clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill, which is a vital and essential part of the Committee's duties and is needed for the preparation of the Committee report. This is the final opportunity for the Committee to propose amendments to the Bill. I advise members that I will formally put the Question on each clause. What the Committee is required to do is vote that it is content with the clause as drafted, that it is not content and wishes to amend the clause or that it is not content and wishes to oppose the clause.

I remind members that no issues were raised with the Bill and no amendments have been proposed by the Department. I ask members to keep the Bill folder, which is the red folder that is being handed out now, in front of them as we go through the clauses. If members are in agreement, we will move directly to the clause-by-clause scrutiny.

Clause 1 (Functions of RBSO: support services)

The Chairperson: Clause 1 provides the Business Services Organisation with legal cover to provide support to the Department and the full range of its arm's-length bodies.

Question, That the Committee is content with the clause, put and agreed to.

Clause 2 (Other functions of RBSO)

The Chairperson: Clause 2 provides a power to allow the Business Services Organisation to administer health and social care functions on behalf of the Department.

Question, That the Committee is content with the clause, put and agreed to.

Clause 3 (Minor amendments)

The Chairperson: Clause 3 deals with minor amendments to the conditions of membership of the Health and Social Care Board, the Public Health Agency and the Business Services Organisation.

Question, That the Committee is content with the clause, put and agreed to.

Clause 4 (Meaning of "the 2009 Act")

The Chairperson: Clause 4 explains that any references in the Bill to "the 2009 Act" mean the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (NI) 2009. Is the Committee content with clause 4?

Mr Dunne: Is that Northern Ireland?

The Chairperson: That is your very place.

Mr Dunne: That is good. I will agree with that.

Question, That the Committee is content with the clause, put and agreed to.

Clause 5 (Short title)

The Chairperson: Clause 5 is the short title of the Bill. Is the Committee content with clause 5?

Mr Dunne: What was that, Chair? I missed that.

The Chairperson: I take it that that is agreement.

Question, That the Committee is content with the clause, put and agreed to.

Schedule (Amendments consequential on the 2009 Act)

The Chairperson: The schedule contains amendments that should have been in schedule 6 to the reform Act.

Question, That the Committee is content with the schedule, put and agreed to.

Long title agreed to.

The Chairperson: I inform members that the Committee will consider the draft report on the Bill's Committee Stage at its next meeting.