PUBLIC SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1974

House of Assembly, 21 March 1974, page 2659

Second reading

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Service Act, 1967-1973. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time*.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in Hansard without my reading it Leave granted.

Explanation of Bill

This short Bill proposes two disparate amendments to the principal Act, the Public Service Act, 1967-1973. This being the case it may perhaps be convenient to consider these amendments in relation to the clauses by which they are proposed. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the Act presaged by this Bill will come into operation on July 1, 1974. This commencement date is specifically related to the amendment proposed by clause 4. Clause 3 amends section 35 of the principal Act, this being the section that provides for the payment of allowances commonly described as “higher duties allowances”; that is, allowances payable to an officer for performing duties over and above those on which his classification is based. Under the principal Act, as at present in force, these allowances are not paid, if the duties are performed as a consequence of the absence of another officer on recreation leave.

For some time it has been considered that this distinction is entirely illogical, since the allowances are intended to be a proper recompense for the fact that the additional or other duties are performed by an officer, and the payment or otherwise should not be made dependent on some factor such as this merely relating to the circumstances which render their performance necessary. Accordingly, it is intended by the repeal of subsection (3) of this section that the distinction will be removed.

Clause 4 is proposed in consequence of the enactment of the Superannuation Bill, 1974, which provides for “early” retirement at age 55 years on a reduced pension if that retirement is permitted by the contributor’s conditions of service. At present the principal Act does not provide for retirement for males at this age. The effect of the re-enactment of section 106 of the principal Act, provided for by this clause, will be to provide a common retiring age for both male and female officers with a common right to service until age 65 years. The right of female officers, who are at present contributing for retirement on full pension at age 55 years, is unaffected by this amendment.

Mr. COUMBE secured the adjournment of the debate