

1. Concessionary Travel Schemes Bill 2016 – Third Reading approved

Mr Corkish to move:

That the Concessionary Travel Schemes Bill 2016 be read a third time and do pass.

The President: Our first Item of business is the Concessionary Travel Schemes Bill 2016 for Third Reading.

I call on the Hon. Member, Mr Corkish.

Mr Corkish: Thank you, Madam President.

In moving this, the Third Reading of the Bill, I wish to thank my seconder, Mr Crookall.

The main objective of this Bill is to regularise the current position by conferring a statutory power on the Department of Infrastructure to enable that Department to make concessionary travel schemes for passengers travelling by public road or rail transport.

This objective will be achieved by the insertion of a new section 23A in the Isle of Man Passenger Transport Act 1982 so as to enable the Department to make concessionary travel schemes. The Department is currently working on the details of the travel scheme and hopes to be able to issue the draft scheme for public consultation in the near future. One of the objectives of the new scheme will be to ensure that any concessions will be targeted to those groups in society who are most in need. That is why the Department is currently working closely with the Treasury – the Social Security Division – to refine the details of the new scheme.

So by way of recap, I would like to emphasise to Hon. Members that this Bill is purely inserting new enabling powers in the Isle of Man Passenger Transport Act 1982 which will introduce new provisions which will allow the Department of Infrastructure to make concessionary travel schemes.

I can also advise Hon. Members that whilst the origins of the original travel concessionary scheme can be traced back to 1974, that scheme was classified as a non-statutory scheme although the scheme did require Tynwald approval. The original 1974 scheme was actually made by the former Board of Social Security and the scheme has been revised over the years to take account of the introduction of the Government Department system and subsequent name changes and restructuring of those Departments.

Madam President, I beg to move the Third Reading of the Concessionary Travel Schemes Bill 2016 and that it do pass.

The President: The Hon. Member, Mr Crookall.

Mr Crookall: Thank you, Madam President. I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

The President: The motion is that the Bill be read a third time and do pass. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

The motion therefore carries, Hon. Members.