



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Communities

OFFICIAL REPORT (Hansard)

Licensing and Registration of Clubs
(Amendment) Bill: Clause-by-clause
Consideration

6 May 2021

I will move on to the amendment to clause 29, which is "Young people prohibited from bars". This is the amendment to provide a regulation-making power to amend the months referred to in 29(1) and the number of prize-giving ceremonies referred to in 29(2). Are members content with the amendment?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): New clause 32A provides for the Department to produce guidance. Are members content with that amendment?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): I will move on to new clause 32B, which provides for the Department to carry out reviews. Are members content with that amendment?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): The amendment to schedule 1 is on one-day membership. This amendment clarifies the policy in respect of the Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, which allows a member of the public to pay a fee that allows them to use the facilities of a sporting club for a day, to ensure that it is not used to allow someone to simply use the bar facilities. Are members content with the amendment?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): The Committee will now commence the formal clause-by-clause consideration of the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill with Liam Quinn and Carol Reid from the Department. Claire McCanny from the Bill Office has also joined the meeting. I will read out the title of the clause before I ask the formal Question on the clause. If members have any final queries for Liam or Carol, please alert me before I read out the formal Question as to whether the Committee is content with the clause as drafted or amended. Are members clear on that?

Ms Armstrong: Can we get StarLeaf to do something about your microphone? It is up and down. To be honest, I can barely hear you.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): OK. I have not been getting the same feedback that I was getting earlier. There is a little, but it is not too bad.

I advise members that, throughout this clause-by-clause consideration, I will need to hear people say yes, or I will need to see a show of hands. We will try the first couple of clauses. Kellie, if you are getting feedback or finding it difficult to hear, I will ask all members to mute themselves and use their hands-up function.

Ms Armstrong: It is not feedback, Chair, it is your microphone. The sound is dipping in and out.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): My microphone?

Ms Armstrong: Yes.

The Assistant Committee Clerk: Broadcasting have said that it is people not muting their microphones that is causing an issue with yours.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): OK. Everybody should know how to use the hands-up function on their screen. I cannot see everybody. Mark, I will ask you to use the hands-up function on your screen. I can see all the other members other than Fra, who does not appear to be on the screen at the moment. He is on the big screen. It is just my small screen that he is not on.

Can everybody please put themselves on silent? That will stop any feedback, and we will give it a go from there.

The Committee Clerk: We can take it slowly.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): We can take our time with this. Is everybody now on silent? OK.

I will just read that out again. Liam and Carol are here for any final queries that members might have. If you have a query, you need to alert me as we go along with each clause, before I say that the Committee is content. We will take our time. We will try the first one, and we will see how we get on.

Clause 1 (Removal of additional restrictions at Easter)

Mr Newton: Sunday opening does give me a problem, but I understand that it is the mind of the Committee to support the clause.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): I understand that, Robin. Thanks for highlighting that. We can reflect that. Robin has said that he has a problem with the clause but understands that it is the mind of the Committee to support it.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 1, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 1A, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 2, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 3, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 4, subject to the proposed amendment, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 5, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 6, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 7, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 8, subject to the proposed amendment, put and agreed to.

New Clause

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Is the Committee content with new clause 8A as drafted for the Committee by the Bill Office? Can I see a show of hands for those in favour? I cannot see everybody; that is the problem. I will go to members as I see them on my screen. Andy, are you in favour of new clause 8A?

Mr Allen: I am content, Chair.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Alex, are you content?

Mr Easton: I am content.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Sinéad, are you content?

Ms Ennis: No, Chair.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Kellie, are you content?

Ms Armstrong: I have reservations, but I am content to proceed.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Robin, are you content?

Mr Newton: I understand that the Committee is of a mind to agree to it, so I am content.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Karen Mullan, are you content?

Ms Mullan: No, Chair. My position is the same as it was last week: I support the Minister's position.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Mark, are you content?

Mr Durkan: Yes. Can I record an interest? Like Kellie, I have some reservations, although they might be different reservations. I think that the amendment reflects the Committee's difficulty in its deliberations on this particular issue, so I am content.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Fra, are you content?

Mr McCann: It is the same position as last week: no.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): I am content with clause 8A as drafted for the Committee by the Bill Office.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 8A, put and agreed to.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): The Committee is content with the amendment, albeit the discussion will be reflected in our Committee report and when I get up to speak on it in the Chamber.

New Clause

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Andy, are you content with clause 8B?

Mr Allen: Content, Chair.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Fra, are you content with clause 8B?

Mr McCann: No, Chair.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Mark, are you content with clause 8B?

Mr Durkan: Yes.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Karen, are you content with clause 8B?

Ms Mullan: No, Chair.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Robin, are you content with clause 8B?

Mr Newton: Same position: I understand that it is the mind of the Committee to approve it.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Kellie, are you content with clause 8B?

Ms Armstrong: Yes.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Sinéad, are you content with clause 8B?

Ms Ennis: Can you remind me again of the gist of clause 8B, just really quickly?

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): It is the part about occasional licences.

Ms Ennis: No, Chair.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Alex, are you content with clause 8B?

Mr Easton: Yes, thanks.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): I am content with clause 8B. There is majority support within the Committee.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 8B, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 9, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 10, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 11, subject to the proposed amendment, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 12, subject to the proposed amendment, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 13, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 14, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 15, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 16, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 17, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 17A, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 18, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 19, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 20, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 21, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 22, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 22A, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 23, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 23A, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 24, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 24A, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 25, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 26, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 27, subject to the proposed amendment, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 28, subject to the proposed amendment, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 29, subject to the proposed amendment, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 30, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 31, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 32, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 32A, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with new clause 32B, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 33, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 34, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 35, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with clause 36, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with schedule 1, subject to the proposed amendment, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Committee is content with schedule 2, put and agreed to.

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

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): That concludes the Committee's formal clause-by-clause consideration of the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill. I thank the departmental officials, Liam and Carol, for all their support and patience in answering all our queries. Also, I thank Claire McCanny from the Assembly's Bill Office for her support and for producing the proposed Committee amendments.

Mr Newton: Sorry, Chair, I tried to come in on clause 23, which deals with the additional restrictions at Easter. Will you record the same position for me as before?

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): OK. I wondered why you did not come in at that stage.

Mr Newton: I tried to, Chair.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): OK. We will indicate that.

Mr Newton: Thank you.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Again, just a big thank-you to Liam, Carol and Claire for the patience, time and understanding. I am sure that patience was required at many moments with us lot through that.

Ms Carol Reid (Department for Communities): Thank you, Chair.

Mr Liam Quinn (Department for Communities): Thank you, Chair. It was a privilege to work with you on this Bill. The detailed scrutiny by the Committee just shows the benefit of the Committee Stage.

The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley): Thank you very much for that, Liam.