

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

AMENDMENT OF HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ORDINANCE 1936

No.25 of 1980

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The House of Assembly (Amendment) Ordinance 1980 amends the House of Assembly Ordinance 1936 to enable the President of the Australian Capital Territory House of Assembly to enter into debates from the floor of the Chamber. The Assembly requested that such an amendment be made.

Sections 1 and 2 of the Ordinance deal with interpretation provisions.

Section 3 of the Ordinance omits sub-sections (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) of section 7 of the Principal Ordinance. These sub-sections require that at a meeting of the Assembly, the President, the Chairman of Committees or an elected member, as the case may be, shall preside (depending upon the attendance of the person concerned). The presiding officer has a deliberative vote only and in the event of an equality of votes, the question is deemed to have been resolved in the negative.

Section 4 of the Ordinance amends section 8 of the Principal Ordinance by adding a new sub-section replacing section 7(9). It provides that in the event of an equality of votes on a question, the question will be deemed to have been resolved in the negative.

Section 5 of the Ordinance adds a new section 9 to the Principal Ordinance. The new section provides that the President shall preside at a meeting of the Assembly, or, if he is absent, or engaged in any capacity as a member of the Assembly, another member chosen in accordance with the standing orders or rules of the Assembly shall preside. The person so presiding shall have a deliberative vote only.

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