

2020

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**CRIMES (PROTECTION OF POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS)
AMENDMENT BILL 2019**

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Presented by
Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Police and Emergency Services**

Crimes (Protection of Police, Firefighters and Paramedics) Amendment Bill 2019

Introduction

On 22 October 2019 the Crimes (Protection of Police, Firefighters and Paramedics) Amendment Bill 2019 (the Bill) was introduced to the Legislative Assembly. The Bill proposes to amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to introduce a new offence for assaults against police and other frontline workers, and new offences for driving at a police officer and ramming police vehicles.

The explanatory statement accompanying the Bill provides a detailed account of the provisions contained in the Bill and can be accessed at: https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_61173/

This Supplementary Explanatory Statement relates to a Government amendment to the Bill proposed by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (the Government amendment).

Outline of Government Amendments

Background

The Government amendment is minor and proposes to change the timing for commencement of provisions from the day after notification, to commencement on the 14th day after notification.

The need for this amendment became apparent through consultation with agencies following presentation of the Bill in the Assembly. The additional time between passage of the Bill and commencement of new offence provisions will allow all affected agencies to put in place communication strategies ahead of the changes, and will allow ACT Policing to make the necessary changes to their data management system to support the operation of new offences.

Human Rights Considerations

As outlined in the explanatory statement to the Bill, the Bill engages and limits a number of rights under the *Human Rights Act 2004* (HRA). The Government Amendment does not further engage the HRA.

Clause notes

Amendment 1 — Clause 2 Page 2, line 4

This amendment changes the timing of commencement of the *Crimes (Protection of Police, Firefighters and Paramedics) Amendment Act 2019* from the day after its notification day, to the 14th day after notification.