

# Be Engaged Model Legislative Council 2025

## Motion

In the case of *Sham Tsz Kit v Secretary for Justice FACV 14/2022; [2023] HKCFA 28*, the Court of Final Appeal declared that the Government of the HKSAR was in violation of its positive obligation under Article 14 of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights to establish an alternative framework for legal recognition of same-sex partnerships, and to provide for appropriate rights and obligations attendant on such recognition to ensure effective compliance with its obligation. The HKSAR government was given until October 2025 to comply with those positive obligations.

Mooters shall draft a Bill proposing an alternative legal framework for recognition of same-sex relationships. Mooters are invited to define (1) the qualifications for the union and (2) the main incidents of such a same-sex union, addressing **one** “core” right that go to the facets of an individual’s existence and identity in their Bill. The Bill may be drafted as a Government Bill or as a Private Member’s Bill (assuming that approval has been given by the President of the Legislative Council).

For (1), considerations may be made as to:

- Whether recognition should be legislative or administrative (in whole or in part)
- Requirements on age, nature of relationship, and cohabitation
- Restrictions based on consanguinity
- Rules regarding the formal aspects of formation

For (2), consider whether or not to include the following as 'core rights':

- Inheritance
- Medical decision-making
- Support and Maintenance
- Taxation
- Immigration
- Annulment and Dissolution

- Parental relationships and ‘founding a family’

## **Be Engaged Model Legislative Council 2025**

### **Rules & Guidelines**

#### General Rules

- Code of Conduct
  - Participants must maintain professionalism and respect towards fellow judges, competitors, and organisers.
- Plagiarism
  - Bills must be participants’ original work. Any form of plagiarism will lead to immediate disqualification.
- Attendance and Punctuality
  - Teams should arrive at the Competition Venue 30 minutes before the Competition. Late arrivals will result in score deductions.
  - Teams may proceed with the Competition even if a team member is absent. No special accommodations will be given.
- Technology and Materials
  - Participants may use electronic devices only to access competition-related documents.
  - Participants are allowed to take notes on paper only.

## Pre-competition Procedures

- Team Formation
  - Participants must form teams consisting of 3 to 4 members before the competition.
  
- Assignment of Rights and Bill Drafting
  - Each team will be allocated **one** right to draft a legislative bill.
  - The allocated right will be announced on **3rd August (Sunday)**.
  - References to existing laws must be properly cited in the following format:-
    - Primary Ordinance: [Short Title] Cap [no.]
    - Basic Law: Basic Law Art. [no.]
    - Subsidiary Legislation: [Short Title] Cap [no.]
    - Bills: [Bill Title] [Year]
  
- Bill Submission
  - Teams are required to submit their drafted Bills by **17th August (Sunday), 3:00 p.m.** via email to [beengayged@gmail.com](mailto:beengayged@gmail.com)
    - The word limit is 2000 words.
    - Bills may be submitted in either a PDF or Word version.
    - No amendments can be introduced after submission.
  - Teams are required to submit an **electronic** bundle with the **paginated** draft bill and all cited materials in a **single PDF file**.
  - Teams may prepare printed copies of cited materials for their own use during the Competition.
  - Be EnGayged will facilitate the exchange of submitted Bills among teams on **17th August**, enabling teams to review and prepare for subsequent debates.
  - Any late submission may result in point deductions without prior notice.



## The Competition

- Competition Schedule:
  - Date: **24th August, 2025 (Sunday)**
  - Venue: Reporting Room: *[tbc]*, Competition Room: *[tbc]*
  - Rundown:
    - Session 1: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
    - Session 2: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
    - Closing Ceremony: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Number of panel adjudicators: 3 per session *[tbc]*
- Roles and Role Rotation
  - **Each round involves 3-4 teams: 1 team will act as the Bill Proposer, and the other teams will act as the Questioners.**
  - Roles rotate after each round to ensure diverse participation.
  - A session consists of a total of 3-4 rounds.
- Session Structure
  - First Reading (2 minutes):
    - The Bill Proposer presents the Bill, including its background, content, significance, etc.
  - Second Reading (12 minutes):
    - Questioners must ring the bell in front of them at least **three** times to indicate they wish to ask a question. Any Questioner who fails to do so may face point deductions.
    - The Questioner who rings the bell first will be given the opportunity to ask their question.
    - In the event that multiple Questioners ring their bells simultaneously, the President will have the final authority to decide which Questioner may speak first.
    - Each Questioner has a maximum of **2** minutes for their question.
    - The Bill Proposer's response is limited to a maximum of **3** minutes per question.

- The Bill Proposer may choose to answer or decline questions.
- Break (3 minutes)
  - The Bill Proposer considers amendments to the bill.
- Final Reading & Voting (5 minutes)
  - The Bill Proposer announces its final version of the bill.
  - All teams vote on the final version of the bill.
- Participation & Speaking:
  - **Each participant must speak at least once per session (either during presentation, questioning, or answering).**
  - Priority is given to those who have not yet spoken.
  - All interactions must be respectful and within the allocated time.
- Timing:
  - The total time per round is approximately 25 minutes.
  - A President (timekeeper) will enforce strict speaking limits. Exceeding the designated time may result in point deductions.



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## **Judging Criteria & Awards**

- Judging Criteria:
  - Quality of Drafted Bill: 20%
  - Quality of Speech, Questioning, and Debate Performance: 80%
  
- Awards
  - Best Team:
    - Awarded to the 2 teams with the highest total scores in each session.
  
  - Best Legislator:
    - Awarded to the individual with the highest individual score in each of the 2 sessions.
    - 2 mini-pupillage opportunities at Pantheon Chambers will be awarded in total.
    - The adjudicators reserve the right not to grant any awards in case none of the participants reaches a minimal threshold of satisfactory performance.
  
  - In case of a tie, the team or the individual with a higher “Debate Performance” score wins. In the event that both teams' or individuals' “Debate Performance” scores are tied, judges will have the final authority on who wins.