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Bid to protect pensions

The Labour Advisory Board is proposing that provident funds, to which employers and employees contribute, should be managed by a third party such as a bank.

Third-party supervision would safeguard workers who lost money when companies went bust.

A Labour Department spokesman admitted that the series of closures of big companies at the end of last year had cost employees their contributions and had shown a need for new legislation to control provident funds.

If everything goes right, the spokesman said, a draft Bill will be tabled in the Legislative Council before the end of the year.

Also discussed at yesterday's LAB meeting were a revised scheme for the compulsory employment of safety officers — especially in the construction industry.

The Labour Department was advised to proceed with detailed examination of the proposals.

The board considered again and reaffirmed support for many minor amendments to the employment ordinance which were intended to clarify some disputable legal points.