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## A retake for the censors

The panel of censors has been re-formed with younger staff better able to reflect general attitudes to standards of public entertainment in Hongkong.

The Acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr F. K. Li, said this when introducing the Places of Public Entertainment (Amendment) Bill, 1976.

He described the Bill as the last stage of an extensive review of film censorship standards and procedures undertaken by the Commissioner for Television and Films.

He said the Bill would more clearly define the standards which the censors apply to films. A guidance note on these

standards has been published as an open document.

Another purpose of the Bill, said Mr Li, had been the re-examination of the existing law with the objective of closing loopholes and bringing the penalties for contravention up to date.

The present penalties were incorporated over 20 years ago.

One of the changes proposed was to make the law clearer in respect to subjecting film trailers, film excerpts and advertising material such as cinema lobby displays to censorship.

Another would introduce heavier penalties for breaches of the ordinance by increasing the maximum fines to \$10,000

and imprisonment up to six months.

Mr Li said the review by the commissioner had also highlighted the need for more public advice in the day to day business of film censorship, stricter control over the showing of censored films to the public and the need for better continuity in the administration of the Film Board of Review.

To meet these requirements, amendments would be made to the Film Censorship Regulations.

First, the Board of Review would be enlarged from four Ex-Officio members to seven, including the Commissioner for

Television and Films, who would be its chairman.

Second, to increase the availability of public advice, the Television and Films Authority would have the right to invite people to attend screenings.

Initially, two members of the public, drawn from a larger group selected by the Director of Home Affairs, would be invited to attend each screening.

They would be asked to record their comments which would be reviewed in the light of the censors' decisions.

If a marked and sustained pattern of variation emerged, the published film censorship standards by which the censors operate would be re-examined.