



Terms of Reference

Inquiry into the Magistrates Court (Indicative Sentencing) Amendment Bill 2025

Standing Order 174, provides that:

'174. Upon a Bill being presented to the Assembly, the bill stands referred to the relevant Assembly standing or select committee for consideration, and:

- (a) if the subject matter of the bill makes it unclear which committee it should be referred to, the Speaker will determine the appropriate committee;
- (b) the committee must advise the Speaker of its decision to inquire into the bill within three weeks of its presentation, or one week after the relevant scrutiny report is tabled, whichever is later;
- (c) the Speaker must arrange for all Members to be notified; and
- (d) the committee must complete its report within three months of the bill's presentation, with the exception of the last sitting period of the year where the committee must report within four months of the bill's presentation.

The [Magistrates Court \(Indicative Sentencing\) Amendment Bill 2025](#) was presented in the Assembly on 30 October 2025 and referred to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs. At its meeting on 5 November 2025, the Committee resolved to undertake an inquiry into the Bill and the amendments which the Bill proposes. The Committee will report back to the Assembly by 29 January 2026.