

Members of the Committee

The proposed legislation introducing an annual licence fee for celebrants is discriminatory on two counts. Firstly it discriminates against celebrants as a group. How may other occupations have a mandatory licence fee? Why victimize celebrants most of whom earn negligible income? Secondly the legislation discriminates against small operators who do not want to be full time celebrants. Why should a celebrant who conducts a handful of weddings be hit with the same licence fee as a full time celebrant for whom \$240 is negligible.

Given your obvious intention to introduce such a fee I would entreat you to at least redress the lot of part time celebrants like myself and simply establish a levy for every marriage performed. For example a \$50 levy should provide the funds the government is seeking.

As it stands marrying couples will be the losers as celebrants will recover the licence fee from their clients. In my case I will make it clear that my fee will be much higher because of an unabashed money grab by the government.

The least the parliament should consider is to make the licence fee tax deductible.