

Acts Enumeration (*pro-forma*).

The rules of the House specify that before the Governor's speech is reported to the House by the Speaker some formal business shall be transacted. This tradition is a symbolic declaration by the House that it is master of its own program of business. Since the Governor's speech outlines the Government's proposed legislative program, the House asserts its independence from the Government by doing some business, which is not part of that program, and before the Speaker has formally notified the House of the speech. Traditionally the formal business takes the form of the presentation and first reading of a bill. This bill is termed the 'pro forma' bill and is always non-contentious.

Adapted from a fact sheet 'A New Parliament No. 9 April 2002, House of Representatives'.

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/info/infosheets/is09.pdf>