

Norfolk Island Amendment Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 24 February 1988

House: House of Representatives

Presented by: The Hon. Gary Punch, M.P., Minister for the Arts and Territories

Digest of Bill

Purpose

To allow the Administrator of Norfolk Island, on the advice of the Legislative Assembly, to appoint an auditor for the island.

Background

Norfolk Island gained self-government under the *Norfolk Island Act 1979* (the Principal Act). The island is governed by an elected Legislative Assembly and an appointed Administrator. The Principal Act details when the Administrator must act on the advice of the Executive Council, the Assembly or the appropriate Minister. The government is responsible for all daily matters and for larger matters such as immigration, public works, revenue raising and the expenditure of that revenue. The island has no separate defence or foreign affairs policies.

The Principal Act provides for further matters to be referred to the government of the island, and this has occurred in the past. The proposed transfer of the audit power will continue this process.

Main Provisions

Clause 3 will insert new sections into the Principal Act. Proposed section 51 will authorise the Administrator to appoint an auditor on the advice of the Assembly.

Proposed section 51A contains restrictions on whom may be appointed as auditor. The auditor must be a registered auditor. If a firm is appointed, each registered auditor in that firm will be deemed to be an auditor.

The auditor is to audit the island's accounts at least annually and is to inform the President of the Assembly of any irregularity that the auditor thinks is of sufficient importance to warrant informing the President. The auditor is also to present an annual report to the president and the Administrator. The President is to table the report in the Assembly (proposed section 51D).

The auditor is to have full and free access to all relevant documents (proposed section 51E), and will not be subject to direction by the Assembly, any member of the Assembly, the Administrator or any Minister (proposed section 51F).

The auditor is to comply with the standards contained in the *Audit Act 1901* and professional standards (proposed section 51G).

For further information, if required, contact the Law and Government Group.

3 May 1988

Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

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