Overseas Students Charge Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1989

Date Introduced: 26 October 1989
House: House of Representatives
Portfolio: Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To amend certain definitional provisions as a consequence of the passage of the Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989.

Background
Overseas students attending Australian educational institutions are required to contribute to the cost of their tuition by the Overseas Students Charge Act 1979 (the Principal Act). The percentage of the cost of education paid by overseas students has been increased in recent years. For students who commenced study before 1 January 1986, the charge is approximately 32% of the full cost of the tuition. The rate rose to 45% for students commencing after that date, and to 55% for students enrolling in the 1988 academic year. In 1988, the charge was extended to overseas students attending non-degree courses.

In the 1989-90 Budget, it was announced that from 1 January 1990 the charge will be replaced by a full-fee/scholarship system. Students currently paying the charge will continue to do so for the duration of their existing study course.1

The amendments proposed by the Bill arise as a consequence of amendments made to the Principal Act by the passage of the Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989. For further information refer to the Digest for the Migration Legislation Amendment Bill 1989.

Main Provisions
The Bill will operate from the commencement of section 4 of the Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989.

Clause 3 will amend the definition of 'overseas student' to reflect amendments made to the Principal Act by the passage of the Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989. The amendments dealt with the categories of entrants.

References