Australian Security Intelligence Organization Amendment Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 12 October 1988
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Clyde Holding, M.P., Minister for the Arts and Territories

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To enable the Minister to issue guidelines to the Director-General of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) that are to be followed in determining the terms and conditions of employment in ASIO. The Bill will also give the Director-General sole power to determine the terms and conditions of employment.

Background
ASIO is the Commonwealth's domestic security intelligence organization. Its role is to collect, evaluate and communicate intelligence relevant to the protection of Australia from espionage, other acts of foreign interference, subversion and terrorism. ASIO does not have power to act independently on the intelligence it has gathered, and is restricted to informing and advising the government. ASIO's advisory function includes the provision of protective security advice to government departments and the furnishing to departments of security assessments on people requiring clearance for access to security information or areas, or on foreigners seeking to enter, or remain in, Australia.

ASIO's expenditure for 1986-87 was $43.04 million. The estimated recurrent expenditure on ASIO for 1988-89 is $37.8 million. Total expenditure on Australia's Security and Intelligence Agencies is estimated at $76.3 million, representing a 3.1% increase on the 1987-88 period. The increase reflects a one-off provision of funds to ASIO in 1988-89 for implementation of an office automation system.

Main Provisions
Clause 4 will amend section 8A of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979 (the Principal Act) to allow the Minister to issue guidelines as to how the Director-General of ASIO is to determine the terms and conditions of employment.

Similarly, section 86 of the Principal Act will be amended to give the Director-General sole power to determine the terms and conditions of employment in ASIO (clause 6).
References


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

20 October 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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