Customs and Excise Legislation Amendment Bill 1987

Date Introduced: 14 May 1987
House: House of Representatives

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To remove the exemption from liability to pay customs duty from Commonwealth authorities; to impose a $200 fee on applications for a refund of customs duty; and to introduce new arrangements for administering the diesel fuel duty rebate system.

Background
The measures contained in this Bill form part of the 1987-88 initial Budget measures announced by the Treasurer on 13 May 1987 (the May Statement). The May Statement announced expenditure cuts aimed at reducing the Budget deficit for 1987-88 by $4000 million.¹ It is estimated in the Explanatory Memorandum to this Bill that savings of approximately $6 million in a full year will be achieved from changes affecting the diesel fuel duty rebate. A further increase in revenue of $6 million in a full year is expected from the imposition of a fee on refund applications. Revenue received from customs duties payable by Commonwealth authorities is estimated at $225 million over the next three financial years.²

Main Provisions
Clause 6 will insert proposed section 131B into the Customs Act 1901 (the Principal Act) to provide that Commonwealth authorities or persons acquiring goods for use by a Commonwealth authority will no longer be exempt from liability to pay customs duty from 30 June 1987. Legislation enacted after this date may exempt such bodies from customs duties.

A fee of $200, or such higher amount as is prescribed, will be charged for applications for a refund of customs duty made after 13 May 1987. Regulations may be made to waive payment of the fee in circumstances specified in the regulations (clause 7 which will insert proposed sub-sections 163(1B), (1C) and (1D) into the Principal Act).

Paragraph 164(3)(b) of the Principal Act sets the minimum amount of diesel fuel which qualifies for a rebate of duty at 1000 litres. Clause 8 will amend the paragraph to increase the minimum amount to 2000 litres. In addition, clause 8 will establish new arrangements for administering the diesel fuel duty rebate system.

Similar amendments will be made to provisions of the Excise Act 1901 dealing with the rebate of duty on diesel fuel (clause 13).
References
2. Explanatory Memorandum to this Bill, p.2.

For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.

11 June 1987

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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