Dried Fruits Export Charges Amendment Bill 1987

Date Introduced: 18 September 1987
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. Barry Jones, M.P., Minister representing the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To amend the Dried Fruits Export Charges Act 1924 (the Principal Act) to enable an increase in the maximum charge leviable on dried fruit exports.

Background
The Australian Dried Fruits Corporation was established in 1978 to promote and control the export, sale, distribution and consumption of Australian dried fruits. Funding for the Corporation's operations is drawn from export charges levied on producers of sultanas, currants and raisins. In order to meet the costs of promotion in overseas markets, the Commonwealth contributes $65 for every $100 contributed by the Corporation for promotional campaigns conducted by the joint Commonwealth - Corporation Overseas Trade Publicity Committee. In addition, the Corporation is eligible for reimbursement for promotional expenditure under the Export Market Development Grants Scheme which will provide grants of up to $200 000 to companies whose total export earnings do not exceed $20 million.

Overseas promotion costs are paid for in Australian dollars. With the depreciation of the Australian dollar, these costs have increased considerably. In its 1985–86 Annual Report, the Corporation noted the cost of pursuing a promotion package in the Federal Republic of Germany, one of Australia's largest buyers of dried fruits. The combined effects of depreciation in 1985–86, together with inflationary costs, would amount to an increase in the cost of promotion in that country of 37% from one year to the next.1

While the Principal Act specifies the maximum rate of charge, the operative rate is fixed by regulation. At present the maximum and operative rate are the same at 1.5 cents per kilogram. To allow the operative rate to be increased to fund the additional costs of promotion mentioned above, this Bill will increase the maximum rate.
Main Provisions

Section 3 of the Principal Act specifies the maximum rate of charge. Clause 3 will amend the section to increase the maximum rate of charge to 3 cents per kilogram.

References


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

28 October 1987

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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