Export Inspection (Establishment Registration Charge) Amendment Bill 1987

Date Introduced: 7 October 1987
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. John Kerrin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industries and Energy

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To allow the establishment registration charge to be imposed at times other than the renewal of registration.

Background
The Export Inspection (Establishment Registration Charge) Act 1985 (the Principal Act) was introduced together with the Export Inspection (Quantity Charge) Act 1985 and the Export Inspection (Service Charge) Act 1985 to raise funds to offset the cost of inspecting goods for export. The importance of thorough inspection to prevent the threat to Australia's export markets has been highlighted in recent years with the substitution of horse meat for beef and the presence of high levels of chemical residue in exported meat.

While the export inspection service is responsible for inspecting a number of rural products, such as grain, fish and dairy products, meat inspection accounts for approximately 85% of the total cost of the service. In 1985–86, produce with a value of $9750 million was inspected and inspection cost was approximately $101 million or 1% of the value of the goods inspected.\(^1\)

The operation of the Export Inspection Service, which was established in 1982, was reviewed by the Auditor-General in 1986. In the report on the Service, the Auditor-General was generally satisfied with the standard of the Service though some recommendations were made. Included in the recommendations were that more emphasis be put on compliance and investigation measures, that the Meat Transfer Certificate program be strengthened and that the cost recovery rate be monitored more often.

Under the Principal Act, the registration fee is payable on the annual renewal of registration. As it has been found that a system of perpetual...
registration is more efficient, this Bill will amend the Principal Act to allow the charge to be imposed other than on the annual renewal of registration.

Main Provisions
Clause 5 will insert a new sub-section 6(1A) into the Principal Act to allow the charge to be imposed during the registration of a premise.

Reference

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

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