Date Introduced: 15 May 1985
Date Amended: 22 May 1985
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Michael Duffy, M.P., Minister for Communications

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Act 1964 (the Principal Act) to enable fees to be payable on radio services rather than on the radio stations themselves as is currently the practice.

Background

The core piece of legislation regarding the regulation of the radio and television industry is the Broadcasting and Television Act 1942 (BTA). Amendments to the BTA will convert the licensing and regulation of television and radio from a station-basis to a service-basis. That is, broadcasting services will be licensed not the stations as is currently the case. These amendments to the BTA have created the need to amend the Principal Act since references in its provisions to "stations" will be anomalous (see Bills Digest on the Broadcasting and Television Amendment Bill 1985).

The Bill will amend the Principal Act to relate fees to licences for radio broadcasting services.

Similar amendments have been made to the Television Stations Licence Fees Act 1964 (see the Bills Digest on the Television Stations Licence Fees Amendment Bill 1985).

Main Provisions

A detailed analysis of the provisions of the Bill is contained in the Explanatory Memorandum.

Clause 2 of the original Bill was amended in the House of Representatives so that the Bill will come into operation on 1 January 1986.
The title of the Principal Act will be repealed and the new title will read "An Act to provide for the payment of fees in respect of certain radio licences" (clause 3).

Section 4 of the Principal Act is amended by the Bill, by substituting new definitions for "gross earnings" and "licence" (clause 6). The former relates, inter alia, to earnings of the licensee pursuant to the licence of advertisements or other matters while a "licence" is defined as a commercial, remote, or supplementary radio licence.

Fees payable by a licensee under the Bill will be by way of tax and the Principal Act is amended accordingly (clause 7).

As reference to "stations" in the Principal Act are rendered anomalous by the amendments proposed by the Bill, the word "licence" is inserted, where necessary, to give effect to the new system of licensing radio services and imposing fees thereon.

For further information, if required, contact:

17 June 1985

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References