LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

AUSTRALIAN TRADE COMMISSION (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985 [NO. 2]

Date introduced: 12 November 1985
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.S. Dawkins, M.P., Minister for Trade

DIGEST OF BILL

Purpose

To amend and repeal a number of Acts as a consequence of the proposed establishment of the Australian Trade Commission (the Commission) and to provide the Commission's funding for the period 1 January 1986 to 30 June 1986.

Background

Refer to the Digest for the Australian Trade Commission Bill 1985 [No. 2] (Digest No. 85/214).

Outline

The Bill comprises 9 Parts, the majority of which amend various Acts. A number of Acts are repealed by Part II, while the staffing of the Commission is dealt with in Part III. The Commission's funding is contained in Part IX.

Main Provisions

For a detailed analysis of the clauses of the Bill refer to the Explanatory Memorandum.


Clauses 6 to 11 provide for the winding up of the Australian Overseas Projects Corporation (AOPC) and the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) and the transfer of their business to the Commission.
Part III of the Bill (clauses 12 to 18) deals with the staff of the Commission. The Minister will be empowered to declare staff employed by certain trade bodies to be employees of the Commission (clause 12). Such transferred staff are to carry over all existing employment benefits (e.g. sick and recreation leave) (clause 15) while clause 16 will apply Part IV of the Public Service Act 1922 to certain persons i.e. that the transferees will be placed into positions taking into account their skills and past experience.

The assets and liabilities of AOPC and EFIC are to be transferred to the Commission (clause 19).

Part V of the Bill (clauses 23 to 31) amends the Export Expansion Grants Act 1978 to transfer the administration of the Act to the Commission. It also provides for the winding up of the Grants Board which currently administers the Act. Similarly, Part VI of the Bill (clauses 32 to 44) transfers the administration of the Export Market Development Grants Act 1974 to the Commission.

The Trade Commissioners Act 1933 is to be amended by Part VII (clauses 45 to 59) of the Bill. The title of the Act is to be changed to Trade Representatives Act and the position of Trade Commissioner is to be altered to Trade Representative (clause 48). The remainder of the Part principally deals with amendments necessitated by the change of titles.

The Commission's funding for the period 1 January 1985 to 30 June 1986 is contained in clause 63. A total of $142.2 million is to be made available to the Commission in this period.

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

3 December 1985

Bills Digest Service
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

© Commonwealth of Australia 1985

Except to the extent of the uses permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written consent of the Department of the Parliamentary Library. Reproduction is permitted by Members of the Parliament of the Commonwealth in the course of their official duties.