HONEY (EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGE) COLLECTION BILL 1984

Date Introduced: 29 February 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To provide for collection of export inspection charges imposed on honey exports by the Honey (Export Inspection Charge) Bill 1984 and intended to apply from 1 April 1984.

Background

Proposed legislation to impose an export inspection charge on honey exports was introduced during the Autumn sittings of Parliament in 1982 and eventually referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Government Operations. The Committee recommended that export inspection procedures be replaced by a system of limited random sampling.

The Honey (Export Inspection Charge) Bill 1984 would authorize an export inspection charge at rates to be prescribed but not to exceed $24 per tonne. It is intended that an interim charge of $4.70 per tonne be introduced from 1 April 1984 while from 1 October 1984 a three tier inspection system will operate, in which all export establishments will begin at the intermediate, "normal", level of inspection but may be later reclassified to reduced or tightened inspection, with a corresponding decrease or increase in the export inspection charge payable. Charges of between $2 and $12 per tonne, depending on the level of inspection, are envisaged.

Main Provisions

Commencement of the Bill is coincident with the commencement of the Honey (Export Inspection Charge) Bill 1984 which imposes the charge.
That Bill makes the exporter primarily liable for payment of the charge. "Exporter" is defined in clause 3 of the present Bill as the person to whom the export permit has been granted.

The export inspection charge is to be paid within 28 days of the end of the month in which an export permit was granted in respect of the honey. A late payment charge of 20 per cent per annum then applies (clauses 4, 6).

Clause 7 prescribes a penalty of $1000 and/or 6 months' imprisonment for failure to furnish proper information. A similar penalty applies for obstructing or hindering a person authorized under clause 8 to search premises upon a warrant issued by a Justice of the Peace on reasonable grounds (subclause 8(3)) for obtaining books, documents etc.

Clause 9 permits application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of a decision whether to remit a late payment charge.

Clause 10 authorizes regulations, including the information and documentation to be supplied by exporters.

For further information, if required, contact:

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