Date Introduced: 28 March 1984  
House: House of Representatives  
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Pig Meat Promotion Act 1975 and the Pig Slaughter Levy Act 1971 with the objectives of updating the image of pig meat; streamlining the Pig Meat Promotion Committee's financial and administrative operations; and implementing changes of a machinery nature.

Background

The Pig Meat Promotion Act 1975 established the four member Pig Meat Promotion Committee. The Committee is funded by a levy imposed by the Pig Slaughter Levy Act 1971 on the slaughter of pigs intended for human consumption. The levy is currently at the rate of $0.60 and contributes approximately $2.5m to Committee revenues which receive no Commonwealth contribution. Unless the rate of levy is increased, Committee revenues should remain at approximately $2.5m p.a. as a result of the anticipated slow growth in the number of pigs slaughtered. It is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that the number of pigs slaughtered has increased from 4,161,000 in 1981 to 4,200,000 in 1983[1].

Main Provisions

Clause 6 terminates the Pig Meat Promotion Trust Account and transfers any moneys to the Pork Promotion Committee.

Clause 7 provides for the payment of money from the Pig Slaughter Levy and other sources directly to the Pork Promotion Committee.

Clause 9 empowers the Committee to spend only funds which have previously been approved as estimates by the Minister.
Clause 11 alters the name of the Pig Meat Promotion Committee to the Pork Promotion Committee.

Clause 13 stipulates where moneys may be invested if not immediately required.

Clause 15 empowers the Minister to approve deputies of members of the Committee before their appointment. Deputies appointed in this manner are entitled to attend a meeting and be deemed a member of the Committee although not with the status of Chairman or Deputy Chairman.

Clause 16 reduces the number of members attending a meeting which represents a quorum from four to three and establishes voting procedures.

Clause 20 amends the Pig Slaughter Levy Act 1971 in response to the change of name of the Committee.

For further information, if required, contact:

3 April 1984
Economics and Commerce Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

Reference