Date Introduced: 10 May 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Barry O. Jones, M.P., Minister Representing the Minister for Social Security

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the following Acts:

- Social Security Act 1947;
- Social Security Legislation Amendment Act 1983;
- Repatriation Act 1920;
- Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act 1954;
- Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act 1971;
- Handicapped Persons Assistance Act 1974; and
- Seamen's Compensation Act 1911

in order to introduce initiatives, remove anomalies, revise and up-date provisions.

Main Provisions

For a detailed explanation of the provisions of the Bill, refer to the Minister's Second Reading Speech[1] and the Explanatory Memorandum.

Social Security Act 1947

The Bill proposes amendments which will remove anomalies relating to the remote area allowance (allows payment of remote area allowance during temporary absences), rent assistance program, benefit income test, correct provisions containing gender discrimination in language and remove redundant provisions (for pensions) relating to "good character". The Bill will also remove the compulsory six weeks' postponement period for payment of unemployment benefit to allow the Director-General of Social Security to apply an appropriate period after considering all relevant matters in an individual case (clause 41). The twelve weeks' maximum period will remain.
Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act 1954

Respite care - new subsidy for temporary (respite) care of aged or disabled persons in hostels. The rate may be $10 or $50 per week for each respite care bed depending on circumstances (clause 74).

For further information, if required, contact:

14 March 1985

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LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

References