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APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.3) 1982-83

Date Introduced: 21 April 1983
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.S. Dawkins, Minister for Finance

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To appropriate $211,338,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the appropriations made under Appropriation Act (No.1) 1982-83, for the ordinary annual services of the Government.

Background

The need for interim appropriation measures in the form of Appropriation Bills (Nos.3 and 4) 1982-83 prior to the Additional Estimates, has arisen as a result of the large calls on the Contingency Provisions, namely the Advances to the Minister for Finance, contained in Appropriation Acts (Nos.1 and 2) 1982-83. According to the Finance Minister in his Second Reading Speech, the principal factors contributing to this situation "include post-Budget initiatives of the previous Government arising, inter alia, out of a fall in economic activity; the costs of the general election; drought and other natural disaster relief and associated costs; and higher than expected cost increases in some areas such as electricity charges". Despite savings made in Appropriation Acts (Nos.1 and 2) 1982-83, further funds in addition to the Additional Estimates Bills are required to offset the greater than anticipated budget deficit.

Outline

The Bill provides for the ordinary annual services of the Government and does not involve initiatives of the new Government. In his Second Reading Speech, the Minister for Finance said that the "specific appropriations include amounts for legal aid resulting from increased costs and unforeseen costs associated with the newly operating
Victorian Legal Aid Commission; higher costs, especially electricity charges, associated with certain defence operations; higher rates of eligibility and increased average benefits under student assistance programs; additional places made available under the special apprentice training schemes; emergency relief for Lebanon; payments to meet higher operational losses sustained by the Australian National Railways Commission reflecting reduced cash flow as a result of the drought affected harvest and the economic downturn; and the costs of the general election itself."

Main Provisions

By Clause 3, the Minister for Finance may issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum of $211,338,000 for services specified in the Schedule for the year ending 30 June 1983. Clause 4 provides that this sum be deemed to have been appropriated as from 1 July 1982. According to the Schedule, the Departments seeking the highest amounts of additional funds are the Departments of Defence ($18m), Education and Youth Affairs ($20.5m), Special Minister of State ($18m), Transport ($34.5m) and Veterans' Affairs ($28.6m). Furthermore, the Advance to the Minister for Finance will be increased by $50m.

Clause 5 refers to section 5 of the Appropriation Act (No.1) 1982-83 which enables the Minister for Finance to pay increases in wages and salaries (for which provision is made in Schedule 2 of that Act) out of Consolidated Revenue. Clause 5 of the present Bill in effect applies the Minister's power contained in that section to the appropriations of the present Bill.

Clause 6 provides that this Bill is subject to the Loan Act (No.2) 1982 which permits financing of appropriations in the 1982-83 Budget for the Departments of Defence and Defence Support from the Loan Fund rather than from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

For further information, if required, contact:

28 April 1983
Economics and Commerce Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
References

Explanatory Notes on Appropriation Bills (Nos. 3 and 4) 1982-83, prepared by the Departments concerned.

Digests for Appropriation Bills (Nos. 3 and 4) 1982-83, and Loan Bill 1983.