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BROADCASTING STATIONS LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT BILL 1983  

Date Introduced: 24 August 1983  
House: House of Representatives  
Presented by: Hon. M. Duffy, M.P., Minister for Communications  

Short Digest of Bill  

Purpose  

To amend the Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Act 1964 (the Principal Act) to:  

(i) increase the percentage of annual gross earnings payable by stations earning more than $9 million in the previous year;  

(ii) raise the upper limit on the percentage of gross earnings payable as an annual licence fee from 5 per cent to 5.5 per cent.  

Background  

This Bill represents the first revision of the new sliding scale of licence charges for commercial radio stations introduced under the Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Act 1981. The 1981 legislation reduced the fees payable by stations with gross annual earnings of less than $2.5 million, a category which embraces virtually all regional broadcasters. The existing provisions with regard to such stations remain unchanged: the higher scale of fees imposed under this Bill will affect only those stations whose annual earnings exceed $9 million. There is currently only one station in this category.  

Main Provisions  

Clause 2 provides that the revised scale shall come into effect for all annual licence fees payable on or after 1 September 1983.  

Clause 3 deletes paragraph (2A) (d) of S.6 of the Principal Act and inserts new paragraphs (d) and (e) substituting new formulae applicable to stations earning between $7 million and $10 million and over $10 million respectively. Under the new paragraph (e), the maximum
percentage of gross annual earnings payable as a licence fee is increased from 5 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

For further information, if required, contact:

1 September 1983

Education and Welfare Group
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Reference