REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES AMENDMENT BILL 1983

Date Introduced: 30 November 1983
House: House of Representatives

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To apply to salaries and remuneration for offices within the jurisdiction of the Remuneration Tribunal, the 4.3 per cent increase in wages and salaries awarded by the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, granted by the Commission on 23 September 1983.

Background

The Remuneration Tribunal was established in 1973 to make recommendations concerning the incomes of ministers, members of Parliament, members of the judiciary and senior public servants. The Tribunal reviews salaries and allowances and makes recommendations which may be implemented by amendment to the appropriate legislation. The Remuneration Tribunal in its 1982 Review determined salary increases of 7 per cent. The statutory amendment's to effect the recommendations were made by the Remuneration and Allowances Amendment Act 1982.

The Salaries and Wages Pause Act 1982 was introduced to limit salary and wage increases from 23 December 1982. That Act was repealed by the Salaries and Wages Pause Act Repeal Act 1983, assented to on 7 October 1983 and operative from the date of Royal Assent. During the wages pause, the Remuneration Tribunal was permitted to act only under section 8(2) of the Remuneration Tribunals Act 1973 to determine remuneration of new or substantially altered offices within its jurisdiction. The usual annual review which would have begun in July 1983, was not held. Following the end of the salaries and wages pause and the granting of a 4.3 per cent increase by the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission on 23 September 1983, the Remuneration Tribunal reported in November 1983. The Tribunal recommended a 4.3 per cent increase on terms consistent with those laid down by the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission when it granted the 4.3 per cent
increase. The Tribunal also recommended three other changes:

(i) increases in travelling allowance;

(ii) correction of an anomaly which arose in September 1982 following a Conciliation and Arbitration Commission decision; and

(iii) adjustments to ministerial salaries to remove a distinction between Cabinet Ministers and other Ministers, with certain exceptions.

Main Provisions

Subsection 5(2) amends section 13C of the Remuneration and Allowances Act 1973 which specifies the travelling allowance applicable to the offices of President and Deputy Presidents of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and Chairman of the Law Reform Commission, to be the travelling allowance payable to First Division officers of the Public Service. It would commence with section 15 of the Public Service Acts Amendment Act 1982 which repeals sections 23 and 24 of the Public Service Act 1922 specifying the divisional structure of the public service.

The rest of Part II is deemed to commence on 6 October 1983, the date of commencement of the 4.3 per cent salary and wage increase. It increases the salaries and annual allowances of the Judiciary. Travelling allowances are increased for the Chief Justice and Justices of the High Court, and for offices falling within section 13C referred to above.

Part III (clauses 7 and 8) amends the Ministers of State Act 1952 for increased provision for ministerial salaries, with effect from the date of Royal Assent.

Part IV amends the Remuneration Tribunals Act 1973, also with effect from the date of Royal Assent, to permit Tribunal determination of remuneration for a new office prior to appointment of a person to the office.

For further information, if required, contact:

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LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE