The purpose of this Bill is to provide assistance by way of a bounty scheme, for 12 months commencing on 1 July 1980, to manufacturers in Australia of non-adjustable wrenches.

The Bill implements the recommendation of the Temporary Assistance Authority in the report "Non-adjustable Spanners" of 14 August 1980. That report found that the local industry's overall activity has declined over the past 4 or 5 years while imports of competing products have increased. The bounty scheme was recommended to restore previous activity levels in the local industry and to enable it to more adequately compete against the imported products.

Main Provisions

Clause 2 gives the commencement date of the Act at 1 July 1980.

Clause 4 defines the bounty period as the 12 months commencing on 1 July 1980 and ending 30 June 1981. Before 30 June 1981, the Minister may declare by notice in the Gazette a further bounty period for no more than 12 months.

The bounty is to be payable to the producer on the production in Australia of the implements provided that: production is completed at registered premises during a bounty period; the implement is sold by the producer during a bounty period, for use in Australia; and the Australian factory cost of the implement exceeds 50% of the factory cost (clause 7).

The rate of bounty is 11 cents per unit (clause 8), but clause 9 limits the total amount available for payment in any bounty period to $620,000. If there are more claims
than can be satisfied by this total amount then the claims are paid on a pro rata basis.

An advance on account of bounty may be made on terms and conditions approved by the Minister (clause 10), with provisions for return of any excess.

The Act lays down procedure for premises to become registered so that bounty may be paid under the Act (clause 13).

The Minister may appoint authorized officers (clause 16) to inspect production, accounts and stock of registered premises or premises where bountiable implements are stored (clause 17). The Controller General, a Collector or an authorized officer may require persons to provide oral and/or documentary details about bountiable implements (clause 18). These persons may be examined on oath or affirmation (clause 19).

Clause 20 creates certain offences for non-compliance with the Act or for making false claims under the Act.

At the end of the bounty period a return must be prepared for Parliament setting out the names and addresses of persons who received bounty payments (clause 21). Application can be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of certain decisions made under the Act such as a refusal to pay a bounty or a refusal to register premises for the purposes of the Act (clause 23).

For further information, if required, contact:

Finance, Industries, Trade & Development Group

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LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE