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PROTECTION OF THE SEA (SHIPPING LEVY) BILL 1981

Date Introduced: 5 March 1981
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. R.J.D. Hunt, Minister for Transport

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To impose a levy in respect of certain ships in Australian ports with oil on board.

Background

The Pollution of the Sea by Oil (Shipping Levy) Act 1972 imposes a levy on Australian ships which during a quarter to which the Act applies have on board not less than ten tons of oil at the rate prescribed for the quarter; the maximum rate is four cents per ton. Defence force ships of Australia and other countries and ships belonging to the Commonwealth and States and their authorities are not subject to the Act.

This Bill repeals the Act and replaces it with similar provisions; the new title is to fit in with the other Bills relating to the Protection of the Sea. One change is the provision for a minimum amount of levy. See also the Digest of the Protection of the Sea (Shipping Levy Collection) Bill 1981.

Provisions

The Bill is to come into operation on a date to be proclaimed which must be the first date of a quarter (1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 October) (clause 2).

The Pollution of the Sea by Oil (Shipping Levy) Act 1972 is repealed (clause 3).

Clause 5 imposes the levy in respect of any ship which during a quarter to which the Bill applies is in an Australian port with not less than ten tonnes of oil on board. The rate is to be prescribed (clause 6) with a maximum amount of four cents per ton on the tonnage of the ship.

Clause 7 permits the making of regulations to
prescribe a minimum amount of levy for a quarter for ships where levy would otherwise be payable with a limit on the amount that may be prescribed of $25.

Under clause 8 the Act does not apply to ships of or under 100 tons belonging to or demised to an arm of Defence Forces of Australia or the armed forces of another country or belonging to or demised to the Commonwealth or a State or Territory or where such a body owns the beneficial interest in the ship.

Provisions for collection of the levy are found in the Protection of the Sea (Shipping Levy Collection) Bill 1981 which is incorporated with this Bill (clause 4).

For further information, if required, contact:

9 March 1981

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