BOUNTY (PRINTED FABRICS) BILL 1981

Date Introduced: 3 June 1981
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.C. Moore, Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To provide for a bounty payment on the printing of certain lightweight woven fabrics.

Background

A recent decision by the government allows foreign made printed fabrics, weighing less than 120 grams per square metre and designed for garment use, to be imported at minimum rates of duty. To maintain the level of competitiveness of the local industry in this area a bounty payable on the printing of lightweight woven fabrics is instituted by this Bill. These measures are in broad agreement with the recommendations of the IAC in Part B of the report on Textiles, Clothing and Footwear, although the bounty payable under this Act, 70% of value added for seven years, differs from the IAC recommendation of 35-40% after a five year period at 115%.

Main Provisions

The Act refers only to printed fabric weighing less than 120 grams and suitable for making into garments (clause 2).

The bounty period is from 1 January 1982 to 31 December 1988 or until such later date as fixed by the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs (clause 2).

Clause 2 also defines registered clothing factories, the processes of printing fabric and business associates as used in the Act.

The bounty is to be paid on the value added as determined by the Comptroller-General (clause 3).

Clause 4 ensures that the bounty is uniform throughout the Commonwealth.
Clause 5 requires that the printing process must be at registered premises during the bounty period for use in making into garments.

The amount of bounty payable to a producer is 70% of the value added to the fabric (clause 6). The bounty is not payable to the Commonwealth, the States or their authorities (clause 7).

Clause 8 allows for advances on account of bounty as approved by the Minister.

The bounty is not payable unless the bountiable printed fabric is of good quality (clause 9). If the Minister is not satisfied that bounty is payable then he is to refuse to approve payment (clause 10).

Clause 13 provides that the Minister may require security for compliance with the Act from a person to whom bounty could become payable.

The Minister may appoint authorized officials to, inter alia, inspect premises and accounts, and to require certain persons to provide oral and documentary information (clauses 14, 15 and 16).

Certain senior officials of Customs or an authorized official are empowered to examine, on oath or affirmation, persons attending before them (clause 17).

Clause 18 creates offences for not abiding by the provision of clauses 15, 16 and 17 and for obtaining or attempting to obtain bounty that is not payable.

Clause 21 provides a right to apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of specified administrative decisions affecting persons under the Act.

For further information, if required, contact: