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MEAT EXPORT (PENALTIES) BILL 1981
AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND LIVE-STOCK CORPORATION
AMENDMENT BILL 1981
COMMERCE (TRADE DESCRIPTIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 1981
CUSTOMS (UNLAWFUL EXPORTATION OF FOOD)
AMENDMENT BILL 1981

Date Introduced: 11 September 1981
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. P.J. Nixon, Minister for Primary Industry (first three) and Hon. J.C. Moore, Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs (last Bill).

Short Digest of Bill

Background, Purpose and Provisions

Each of these four Bills would increase the penalties for offences related to the export of beef. The increased penalties have been proposed as a result of the discovery of horse and kangaroo meat in beef exports to the US.

Under the Meat Export (Penalties) Bill 1981 penalties for the illegal usage of inspection stamps, the interference with inspection stamps, or in the making of false declarations in pursuance of the Regulations would be increased from $100 each to a maximum of $100,000, 5 years imprisonment or both (sub. cl. 3(1)). However, if a person, with the consent of the prosecution, elects to have the matter heard summarily, the penalties are a maximum fine of $5,000, imprisonment for one year or both (sub. cl. 3(3)).

The Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment Bill 1981 amends sub-section 50(1) of the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act 1977 which provides for a penalty of $2,000 for a person who holds a meat export licence and contravenes a condition of the licence. The amendment provides for penalties similar to those provided for under the Meat Export (Penalties) Bill 1981.
The Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Amendment Bill 1981 provides for similar penalties for a person who applies a false description of food stuffs intended for export. The Customs (Unlawful Exportation of Food) Amendment Bill 1981 provides similar penalties for the export of food prohibited under the Regulations.

Finance, Industries, Trade & Development Group

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