Date Introduced: 16 May 1980
House: Senate
Presented by: Senator P.E. Rae (Private member's Bill)

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1905 to prevent the automatic forfeiture to the Crown for the use of the Commonwealth of radio equipment used in contravention of the Act.

Background and Provisions

Under section 7 of the existing Act all radio equipment used in contravention of the Act was liable to automatic forfeiture to the Crown for the use of the Commonwealth, with no provision for return to the owner at the direction of a court or the Minister. This penalty thus applied even for minor offences such as failure to pay a licence fee upon the due date.

Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 7 of the Act to give the Minister a discretion to direct the return to the owner of forfeited equipment.