APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1978-1979

Date Introduced: 5 April 1979
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Eric Robinson, Minister for Finance

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To appropriate moneys from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for commitments for the ordinary annual services of the Government in 1978-1979 additional to those originally provided in Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1978-1979.

Background

Appropriation Bills (No. 3) and (No. 4) or "the additional estimates" are usually introduced a few months before the end of each financial year to provide for new or essential and unavoidable expenditure commitments not included in Appropriation Acts (No. 1) and (No. 2) respectively in the original Budget at the beginning of the financial year.

In some cases, actual expenditure for a particular item turns out to be less than appropriated but such savings cannot be applied to another item where extra funds are needed unless in the same appropriation sub-division. A separate list of such savings based on current expectations has been provided by the Department of Finance "Statement of Savings Expected in Appropriations". The savings totalled $80.6 million for Appropriation Act No. 1) 1978-1979 and $26.6 million for Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1978-79.

Provisions

Appropriation Bill (No. 3) permits the appropriations from CRF of $223,205,000 for 1978-79 (clause 3) for the purposes specified in the Schedule to the Bill.

Some of the most significant items are:

Legal Aid - Payments to private legal practitioners 4.7
Defence - Defence Force salaries 18.8
- new equipment and stores 48.2
- Replacement equipment and stores 16.5
- Repairs and overhaul of equipment and stores 3.7

Australian National University - cost supplementation 2.5

Community Youth Support Scheme 3.3

Foreign Affairs - UNHCR Program (assistance for Indo-Chinese refugees) 3.0

Australian Broadcasting Commission 2.8

Transport - salaries and allowances 4.8
- ANR-subsidy to meet operating losses 3.8

Capital Territory Health Commission 2.2

The Schedule includes a total appropriation of $55.9 million in respect of public service wages and salaries. $43.5 million of this is for prospective wage and salary rate increases and $12.5 million for staff increases.

9 April 1979

Finance, Industries, Trade & Development Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE