PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

JUDICIARY (DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION) AMENDMENT BILL 1979

Date Introduced: 24 May 1979
House: Senate

Purpose

To remove any legal doubts about the extensions of Mr. Justice Fox's service as an Ambassador-at-Large beyond the original period of 12 months.

Background

The Judiciary (Diplomatic Representation) Act 1977 provided for the acceptance by Mr. Justice Fox of an appointment as an Ambassador-at-Large and, if he accepted such an appointment, that his service was to count as judicial service and he was to continue to receive his judicial salary. The Act says nothing to permit a reappointment or extension of appointment and the Attorney-General has stated, in his Second Reading Speech, that legal technical doubts have arisen to suggest that the Act only covers the first appointment. Mr. Justice Fox has had his term of office extended twice beyond the original 12 month period and it is desired to extend it further until the end of 1980 and possibly beyond.

Provisions

The Bill which is to operate from Royal Assent provides in clause 3 that certain references to an appointment as Ambassador-at-Large are to include extensions of the term of appointment and are to be read as having been so since the Act was originally enacted.