MARITIME COLLEGE BILL 1978

Date Introduced: 5 April 1978
House: Senate
Presented by: Senator the Hon. J.L. Carrick, Minister for Education

Purpose

This Bill repeals the Maritime College Act 1976, which established the Australian Maritime College with an Interim Council, but maintains the existence of the Australian Maritime College with provisions for a permanent Council, staff and students, and with the status of a body corporate.

Provisions

The College shall be sited at Launceston, Tasmania (clause 6). The functions of the College are: to provide tertiary education for persons in the shipping or fishing industry; to award degrees, diplomas and certificates for education provided by the College; to consult and liaise with other Australian institutions concerned with maritime education and training (clause 7). The College may, on behalf of the Commonwealth, conduct short courses and assess marine competency in accordance with the Navigation Act 1912 (clause 9).

The College is given the power to enter into contracts, erect buildings, occupy land rented or owned by the Commonwealth, employ staff and accept gifts (clause 8).

The College Council is to consist of from 14 to 23 members including: the Principal, up to 12 members appointed by the Governor-General, 2 elected members of the teaching staff and one elected student member. Up to 6 more members may be appointed by the Council. The Chairman of the Council is appointed by the Council and need not already be a member (clauses 10, 11 and 15). Remuneration of members (other than the Principal, teaching staff members and the student member) is to be determined by the Remuneration Tribunal (clause 16). The Council may make Statutes consistent with the Bill relating to such matters as the management of the College, admission of students and the content of courses (clause 24). These Statutes are to be approved by the Governor-General, notified in the Gazette and must be tabled within 15 sitting days after notification (clause 25). Council
members are obliged to disclose pecuniary interests in matters coming before the Council (clause 18).

The College Principal, initially appointed by the Minister but with succeeding Principals appointed by the Council, shall be the executive officer of the College (clause 26). Staff shall be employed on terms determined by the Council (clause 28). College staff who are academic staff within the meaning of Part 3 of the Remuneration Tribunals Act 1973, and for whom a determination of the Academic Salaries Tribunal applies, shall be paid salaries in accordance with that determination.

Funds will be appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the College (clause 33).

Fees are not payable to the College except where the Council, with the approval of the Minister, determines (clause 32). The College shall keep proper accounts and records, which will be inspected by the Auditor-General, and report annually to the Minister and to Parliament (clauses 36, 37 and 39).

Background

The Australian Maritime College is established as a college of advanced education within the domain of the Tertiary Education Commission. This Bill, which was foreshadowed in the Second Reading Speech on the Maritime College Bill 1976, was drafted after consideration of the recommendations of the Interim Committee for the Australian Maritime College.

$305,000 for the College's recurrent expenditure and $1,586,000 for the College's capital programs have been provided by Appropriation Acts Nos. 1-2, 1977-78.

10 April 1978

Education and Welfare Group

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE