Bounty (Books) Amendment Bill 1978

Date Introduced: 12 April 1977
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. W.C. Fife, M.P.,
Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To extend the bounty payable to local book manufacturers for a further 12 months to 31 December 1979.

Background

The Book Bounty scheme began in 1969 at a time when the increasing outflow of Australian published books for printing in Asia was causing some concern.

The scheme was originally introduced as an interim measure of assistance to local book manufacturers pending the result of an inquiry by the then Tariff Board into the products of the printing industry. The Tariff Board Report was completed in September 1973. The Board recommended that the scheme continue until 31 December 1978 and be reviewed again before that date. An increase in the bounty rate from 25% to 33-1/3% of the total cost of production was also recommended.

These recommendations were accepted by the Labor Government and the Book Bounty Act 1975 amended the Book Bounty Act 1969 accordingly.

Other legislative changes since 1969 have amended the definition of an eligible book for bounty purposes.

On 17 March 1978 the Minister for Industry and Commerce and the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs announced in a joint statement that the Act would operate for a further 12 months to 31 December 1979. The Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) report from the current review of the printing industry is due on 31 July 1978. However the Ministers stated that book manufacturers were already being asked to quote for work in 1979 and that the IAC had advised that if no announcement was made on the future of the bounty until after its report, local producers would lose a significant proportion of work in 1979.
Payments under the Book Bounty scheme totalled $5.9 million in 1974-75, $6.7 million in 1975-76 and $8.0 million in 1976-77.

Main Provisions

The period during which the Act applies will be extended from 1 December 1978 to 1 December 1979 (clause 4).

The opportunity was taken in this Bill to insert certain formal provisions into the Act which bring that legislation into line with current practice in regard to all Bounty Acts (clauses 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8).