Date Introduced: 12 April 1978
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. A.A. Staley, Minister for Post and Telecommunications

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the States Grants (Schools) Act 1972, the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1976 and the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1977, to adjust grants to the States for government and non-government schools in respect of cost increases.

Background

The guidelines issued for expenditure on schools in 1977 stated that cost supplementation to the end of 1977 would be "less automatic" that is, savings through competitive tendering, under-expenditure, etc. must be noted by the Schools Commission and allowance made for these in the supplementation. Retrospective supplementation is applied to all grants other than certain non-government school grants which, because of cash flow problems of the smaller non-government school sector, are supplemented in advance of actual expenditure.

The States Grants (Schools) Act 1972 as amended by Part VI of the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1977 is current for 1977-78 financial year which is the first and final year of operation for this Act. The States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1977 provided funds for 1978 Schools Commission programs and adjusted grants for 1977 in respect of cost increases.

Main Provisions

The amended schedules adjust the 1977 grants to government and non-government schools (except those grants which were supplemented in advance) in respect of cost increases to December 1977 and adjust 1978 grants to December 1977 prices.

Expenditure under the States Grants (Schools) Act 1972 is increased by $1,823,000; under the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1976 in respect of 1977 grants by $4,963,800 and under the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1977 in respect of 1978 grants by
$14,662,500.

Section 17 of the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1976 is amended by substituting $654,800 for $844,000 as the limit on additional grants for non-government schools in need of short term emergency assistance in 1977. It was explained in the second reading speech that the number of schools which met the criteria for assistance grants was insufficient to warrant the full amount.

28 April 1978

Education and Welfare Group

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE