Date Introduced: 15 November 1978
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. A.A. Street, M.P., Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose
To make machinery amendments to the provisions for remuneration of the office-holders of the Australian Trade Union Training Authority.

Background
The Trade Union Training Authority Act 1975 was amended earlier this year to provide for a National Director who, in accordance with policy formulated by an Executive Board, is responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Authority. He is appointed by the Minister for a period not exceeding 7 years and his remuneration is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. In his Second Reading Speech the Minister referred to the appointment of Mr. Commissioner M.E. Heagney of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission as National Director on 1 August 1978.

The Executive Board of the Authority consists of the Chairman of the Australian Council for Union Training (also established under the Act) the National Director, the Secretary to the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations or another officer appointed by the Minister to the Australian Council, 4 other members appointed by the Minister from among members of the Australian Council who are ACTU, ACSPA or CAGEO representatives, and the member of the Australian Council who represents the Confederation of Australian Industry.

As well as the Australian Council there is a Council for each State.

Provisions
The Bill is deemed to have come into operation on 1 August 1978, the date on which the earlier amendments this year came into operation (clause 2).
Clause 3 provides that if the National Director is a member of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission he is not to be remunerated for that office while National Director but does not lose his office.

Clause 4 enables the payment of remuneration, as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal, to the Chairmen of State Councils. Under existing section 25 members of councils are not to be paid remuneration and clause 5 makes a consequential amendment to section 25.

Clause 6 provides that any member of the Executive Board or a council who is a member of, or is a candidate for election to, a Parliament is not to be paid remuneration but may be reimbursed reasonable expenses. This is intended to avoid any problems whereby members of Parliament who served on the Board or a council would be disqualified if they received payment; for example section 44(iv) of the Constitution prevents a person who holds an office of profit under the Crown from being chosen or sitting as a member.

22 November 1978

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