DATE INTRODUCED: 15 NOVEMBER 1978

HOUSE: House of Representatives

PRESENTED BY: Rt. Hon. Ian Sinclair, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

SHORT DIGEST OF BILL

Purpose

To amend the Principal Act (the Dried Fruits Export Charges Act 1924) so that moneys raised by the export charge imposed under that Act will in future be payable to the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation instead of to the Australian Dried Fruits Control Board as at present.

Background

Under the Principal Act, a charge is imposed and payable on all dried fruit (meaning currants, sultanas and raisins) which is exported from Australia. Moneys raised by this charge are used to finance the operations of the Australian Dried Fruits Control Board (ADFCB). The maximum rate of the charge is 0.70 cents per kilogram (for all three varieties of dried fruit). The operative rate, which is prescribed, is currently 0.45 cents per kilogram (for all three varieties of dried fruit). For the year ended 28 February 1978 the export charge raised $151,680 on the export of 33,706 tonnes of dried vine fruits.

The ADFCB also receives moneys by way of grants from the Commonwealth under the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) Scheme for its promotion of exports of dried fruits. In respect of the year ended 28 February 1978, the Board will receive $82,346 in EMDG Scheme grants. The Board also participates in the Overseas Trade Publicity Committee (OTPC) campaign whereby approved expenditure on the export promotion of dried fruits is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and the Board. Under this campaign in 1977-78 the Commonwealth's contribution of $35,253 (39% of the total) amounted to 65% of the Board's contribution of $54,237 (61% of the total).

The Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Bill 1978 provides for the establishment of an Australian Dried Fruits Corporation (ADFC) to replace the ADFCB, from 1 January 1979. From that date, moneys raised by the export charge under the Principal Act will be paid to the Corporation.
(instead of to the Board, as at present) for the financing of its operations. This Bill makes the necessary legislative charges to provide for such payments to be made to the Corporation. Payments will be made by exporters, as at present.

Provisions

Clause 2 provides for the amendments to commence on 1 January 1979. Clause 3 adds the definition of 'Corporation'. Clauses 4 and 5 provide for the deletion of 'Australian Dried Fruits Control Board' and the insertion of 'Corporation'.