Legislative Research Service
Department of the Parliamentary Library

Administrative Services Legislation Amendment Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 12 October 1988
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Stewart West, M.P., Minister for Administrative Services

Digest of Bill

Purpose

This is an omnibus Bill that will make a number of non-contentious amendments to Acts administered by the Administrative Services portfolio.

Background

Bills similar to this will replace the previous method of introducing non-contentious amendments. Previously, all such amendments were introduced in Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bills. The new method will allow greater scrutiny of the minor amendments of each ministerial portfolio.

Main Provisions

Amendments of the *Public Works Committee Act* 1969

The Act established the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (the Committee). The Committee scrutinises expenditure on public works. In 1986-87, the Committee received 12 references and the estimated cost of the work involved in the proposed words was $235.2 million.[1] Since the inception of the Committee, 'Public work' has been interpreted as works of a permanent architectual or engineering nature carried out by the Commonwealth. Ships, submarines, etc., have been regarded as movable works and, as such, their construction is not subject to the Act. However, in recent years, legal advice has called this view into question.[2]

The Bill will clarify the definition of 'public work' to exclude intangible things, movable property, and plant equipment that are not central parts of a work. After consultation with the Committee, types of works may be declared to be public works by regulation. Similarly, types of works can also be declared not to be public works by regulation.

Amendments of the *Australian Protective Services Act* 1987

The list of specified offences where Protective Service Officers have a power to arrest a person without a warrant, will be extended to include escaping from lawful custody, aiding a person to escape from lawful custody, and aiding a person to escape from lawful custody by force.

References

1. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, *Fiftieth General Report*, 1987, p.2.
2. Parliamentary Debates, House of Representatives, *Hansard*, 12 October 1988, pp. 1467 – 1468.

For further information, if required, contact the Law and Government Group.

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This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

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