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AIR NAVIGATION AMENDMENT BILL 1977

Date Introduced: 18 August 1977
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Honourable P.J. Nixon,
Minister for Transport

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

The purpose of the Bill is to give legislative approval to an increase in the membership of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization from 30 to 33.

Background

The Air Navigation Act 1920 approved the ratification of the Chicago Convention of 1944 on International Civil Aviation.

An important part of the Convention provides for the setting up of the International Civil Aviation Organization which has the aims and objectives to develop the principles and techniques of international air navigation, and to foster the planning and development of international air transport. The Organization has functions which cover developments in the growth of international civil aviation, aircraft design, airfields, navigation, needs for air transport, economy and safety. It is concerned with the rights of Convention members and the avoidance of discrimination between them.

The Organization consists of an Assembly in which all Convention members have an equal right to be represented, and a Council whose representation was initially 21 contracting States. With increased membership of the Convention this number was increased to 27 in 1962, and 30 in 1971.

The Assembly meets annually but extraordinary meetings may be called by ten or more States. It deals with overall policy matters including the annual budget.

The Council is a permanent body responsible to the Assembly. Under its Secretary-General it carries out all the executive and supervisory functions to make the Convention work.

In 1974 the Assembly adopted a Protocol providing for an increase in Council membership to 33. It has already been ratified by 52 States and requires 86 ratifications to come into force.

Air Navigation Amendment Bill 1977 (Bills Digest 77, 1977)

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The Second Reading Speech states that it was the clear wish of the Assembly that Council membership should be increased to 33 members. The Australian delegation to the Assembly supported the proposal.

Provisions

The Convention and its Protocols are included as schedules to the Air Navigation Act 1920. The Protocol providing for the increase will become the Ninth Schedule. Clause 3 of the Bill makes a simple amendment to Section 3A of the Act which refers to and approves the ratification of the Protocol. Clauses 4, 5 and 6 are machinery provisions flowing from this amendment.

29 August 1977

Defence, Science and Technology Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

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