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STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976

Date Introduced: 10 November 1976
House: House of Representatives

SHORT DIGEST OF BILL

1. Purpose
This Bill will provide legislative authority for payments to the States for 1977 for approved government and non-government schools programs.

The Bill provides $509.5m for government and non-government schools in the States for 1977. $271.449m is allocated for government schools under the general resources programs ($184.189m recurrent expenditure and $87.261m for building and equipment projects). Non-government schools are allocated $13.02m for building and equipment projects under the general resources programs; recurrent expenditure allocations for non-government schools are calculated on a per student basis as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Assistance</th>
<th>Amount per primary school student</th>
<th>Amount per secondary school student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>286</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$75.761m is allocated for specific purpose programs ($23.838m for migrant education, $21.988m for disadvantaged schools and disadvantaged country areas, $14.152m for special schools and residential institutions and $15.784 for development and service activities.

3. Implications
The allocations in the Bill generally agree with the financial recommendations of the Schools Commission for 1977. However, the recommended distribution between States of capital grants has been modified. $1.4m (in December 1975 prices) has been added to Queensland’s allocation for general capital grants,
and offset by slight reductions in the allocations of four other States. The size of the per pupil grant for the most needy non-government primary schools was increased above the recommended level.

Whereas all the original financial recommendations were expressed in December 1975 prices, the amounts shown in the Bill are in June 1976 prices for capital programs, and September 1976 prices for recurrent programs, except for the non-government schools general recurrent program which includes an allowance for cost increases during the first half of 1977.

Education and Welfare Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
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