LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

GRAPE RESEARCH LEVY BILL 1986

Date introduced: 19 March 1986
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Brown, M.P., Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism
for the Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

DIGEST OF BILL

Purpose

To impose a levy on grapes and grape juice delivered to wineries and other processing establishments.

Background

At present most grape research is carried out by State agricultural departments and by the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). Funding for such research is ad hoc and the research fragmented. The Report of the Inquiry into the Grape and Wine Industries (April 1985) recognised the need for a co-ordinated research program operating within a secure funding environment. The present Bill seeks to bring grape research funding into line with research funding in other rural industries by imposing a levy on grapes and grape juice.

Main Provisions

Clause 6 will impose a levy on prescribed goods (i.e. fresh grapes, dried grapes and grape juice) delivered to a processing establishment on or after 1 July 1986.

The maximum rate of levy will be 50c per tonne of fresh grapes or fresh grape equivalent (clause 7).

The levy will be payable by the grapegrower (clause 8).
Clause 9 provides for exemptions from the levy. When a levy for dried grapes has been paid under the Dried Fruits Act 1971, such dried grapes are exempt from the Grape Research Levy. As well the levy will not be payable on grapes delivered to processors who use less than 20 tonnes of fresh grapes, or fresh grape equivalent, per year.

Comment

This Bill is part of a package dealing with the wine and grape industries. The other Bills in the package are:

Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Amendment Bill 1986
Wine Research Repeal Bill 1986
Grape Research Levy Collection Bill 1986
Wine Grapes Levy Amendment Bill 1986

For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.