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 repeal the Wine Research Act 1955 (the Principal Act) and to provide for the disbursement of the money standing to the credit of the Wine Research Trust Fund (the Fund) established by the Principal Act.

Background

The Principal Act established the Fund which is used for research into wine. The Fund's income principally comes from the levy imposed on growers of wine grapes by the Wine Grapes Levy Act 1979. This contribution by the industry has been matched by the Commonwealth on an ad hoc basis.

In the 1985 Annual Report of the Australian Wine Research Institute the Chairman of the Institute advocated separate levies for grape research and wine research. The imposition of separate levies is seen as a means of guaranteeing and stabilising future funding for both grape research and wine research.

The package of Bills, of which the present Bill forms a part, attempts to bring the funding and administration of grape and wine research into line with the provisions of the Rural Industries Research Act 1985. It is proposed that a Grape and Wine Research Trust Fund will be established and will receive separate levies relating to grape research and wine research.
Main Provisions

Clause 4 provides for payment of $300,000 from the Wine Research Trust Fund into the Grape and Wine Research Trust Fund. The payment is to be made as soon as practicable after the establishment of the new Fund. Clause 4 also provides for the balance of the Wine Research Trust Fund to be paid to the Australian Wine Research Institute.


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 Amendment Bill 1986
Wine Grapes Levy Amendment Bill 1986
Grape Research Levy Bill 1986
Grape Research Levy Collection Bill 1986

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