

National Identification System (Reference to the People) Bill 1987

Date Introduced: 15 September 1987

House: Senate

Presented by: Senator the Hon. Janine Haines

(Private Senator's Bill)

Digest of Bill

Purpose

To require a referendum before the proposed Australia Card comes into effect.

Background

Refer to the Digests for the Australia Card Bill 1987 and the Australia Card Referendum Bill 1987.

Main Provisions

The preamble to the Bill contains its purpose, which is to ensure that the *Australia Card Act* 1987 does not come into operation without its approval at a referendum.

The interpretation provisions contain the question to be asked at the referendum, i.e. 'Are you in favour of the introduction of the proposed national identification system through the Australia card?' (clause 3).

The Governor – General is not to proclaim that the *Australia Card Act* 1987 has come into effect unless a majority of voters at the referendum are in favour of the proposal (clause 4).

If a majority of the Members of Parliament who voted against the card present the Electoral Commissioner with an argument of 2000 words or less, against the proposal the Commissioner is to send a pamphlet of the argument to voters. Similar provisions apply in respect of the argument in favour of the card (clause 7).

Form B, contained in the Schedule to the Bill, contains the proposed ballot paper.

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

15 March 1988

Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

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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