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**Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill
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I N F O R M A T I O N A N D R E S E A R C H S E R V I C E S

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No. 107 2001–02

Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill 2002

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Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill 2002

Date Introduced: 14 February 2002

House: House of Representatives

Portfolio: Transport and Regional Services

Commencement: On Royal Assent

Purpose

To provide for automatic annual adjustments to registration charges for heavy vehicles (over 4.5 tonnes) registered under the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme.

Background

Detail on the issue of automatic annual adjustment to heavy vehicle registration charges is contained in the Bills Digest for the Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Amendment Bill 2002.

Heavy vehicles that operate solely in *interstate* trade and commerce may be registered under the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme (FIRS) rather than under State or Territory based registration schemes. The Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill 2002 simply provides for registration charges for FIRS vehicles to be subject to the same¹ new automatic annual adjustment procedure as State and Territory registered vehicles. The new procedure is being introduced under the Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Amendment Bill 2002.

Warning:

This Digest was prepared for debate. It reflects the legislation as introduced and does not canvass subsequent amendments.

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

Main Provisions

Schedule 1

Item 1 deletes existing section 6 of the *Interstate Road Transport Charge Act 1985* and replaces it with a **new section 5A** and a **new section 6**. Existing section 6 allows regulations to be made to increase or decrease registration charges by not more than 5% as compared to the previous year.

New section 5A provides for the annual charges applying to State and Territory registered vehicles calculated under the new procedure in the Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Amendment Bill 2002 to apply to FIRS vehicles.

New section 6 will allow regulations to be made to *decrease* those registration charges that would have otherwise applied under new section 5A. The explanatory memorandum to the Bill states that this is intended to provide²

...some flexibility for the Commonwealth, consistent with that provided to the States and Territories who may apply their own charges below the national level set out in the Principal Act.

Item 2 makes a minor consequential amendment of no policy or financial importance.

Endnotes

- 1 Although note new section 6, which allows for lower charges than the national level set by the Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Amendment Bill 2002.
- 2 Explanatory memorandum, p. 4.

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