

Election Funding Amendment Bill 1999

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to vary the manner in which the government's contribution to the funding of election campaigns is calculated under the *Election Funding Act 1981*. The amount of the contribution is expressed (in a formula contained in section 57 of the Act) to be proportional to the time that elapses between the return of the writs for the general election for which the contribution is to be calculated and the return of the writs for the previous general election. The current formula, however, measures this time in years and provides for any part of a year to be measured as a full year. The amendment varies the relevant formula so that:

- (a) the time between elections is to be measured in months (any part of a month being treated as a full month), and
- (b) in measuring that time, any month after the 48th month is to be disregarded.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent.

Clause 3 is a formal provision giving effect to the amendment to the *Election Funding Act 1981* set out in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1 amends section 57 of the Act in the manner described above.