

1993

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 1993

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the
Minister for Trade and the Minister for Administrative Services,
Senator the Hon Bob McMullan)

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OUTLINE

This Bill amends the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 to provide that where, in a State, there is no office of Surveyor-General, the membership of a federal Redistribution Committee for that State may include the person who, in the opinion of the relevant State Minister, holds the equivalent office.

The amendments are designed to cover the situation where a State which will be redistributed has abolished the office of Surveyor-General. Both Queensland, which will probably begin being redistributed early next month, and Western Australia, which will need to be redistributed by 1996, have abolished the office of Surveyor-General.

The Attorney-General's Department has advised that the amendment is desirable to be able to validly constitute the Redistribution Committees in these States.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The amendments will give rise to neither costs nor savings.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 - Short title etc

1. Provides for the Act to be cited as the *Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Act 1993* and specifies that references to the Principal Act mean the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

Clause 2 - Commencement

2. Provides that the Act shall come into operation on the day it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3 - Redistribution Committee for State

3. This clause amends section 60 of the Principal Act to alter the membership requirements for the make-up of a federal Redistribution Committee for a State. Where there is no office of Surveyor-General in a State, the State Minister responsible for land surveying and mapping matters (or another Minister acting on his or her behalf) may nominate the person holding the equivalent office or, if that person is unavailable, the person holding the office equivalent to the office of Deputy Surveyor-General. If that person is also unavailable, or there is no such person, the Governor-General shall nominate a senior officer of the Australian Public Service from the State concerned.



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