

Insurance Authority Amendment Bill 2000

Explanatory Memorandum

**Circulated by authority of
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Shadow Treasurer
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Insurance Authority Amendment Bill 2000-09-05

Purpose

The purpose of this Bill is to require the Minister responsible for the administration of this Act to provide the Assembly with a synopsis of third party indemnities granted under s15 of the *Insurance Authority Act 2000* (the Act).

Current Legislation

- The Act was passed on the 31st of August 2000;
- The Act was passed after a series of 'accountability' amendments were put by the ALP and agreed to by the Assembly;
- The Act provides that the authority may issue indemnities to third parties, subject to the certification of the Minister: s15.

Proposed Change

- The ALP proposed during the debate on the original Bill to amend the third party indemnity provision to require ACTIA to provide a copy of all indemnities granted to the Assembly;
- After agreeing with the Government that this would generate an undesirable level of paper, the Opposition has now returned with a compromise;
- This Bill inserts 5 new subsections that require ACTIA to provide the Minister with a copy of all indemnities, the Minister to compile these indemnities into a single document and to table the document within 6 sitting days or 14 days;
- The particulars that must be included in the document are the value of and the date of the indemnity was granted and the name of the third party who is indemnified;
- Finally the Bill allows any member to request a full copy of an indemnity granted.

Financial Implications

- The likely financial effect is a small administrative cost, consistent with the assumption that the Government should be keeping such accountability records as a matter of practice.

Commencement

- The Bill will commence on a day notified in the Gazette.

Conclusions

The amendment proposed in this Bill address the concerns of the Government and the cross bench that were relayed in the discussions of the 31st of August 2000. More importantly though it represents a positive step in the direction of accountability for the Authority. The ALP looks forward to the support of Members who have committed to support such an amendment.