

1980

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

ACTS INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT BILL 1980

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Attorney-General,
Senator the Honourable P.D. Durack, Q.C.)

ACTS INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT BILL 1980

Purpose

This Bill will amend the Acts Interpretation Act 1901. The proposed amendment will enable legislation to be printed with section headings in lieu of the present marginal notes and with endnotes in place of the present footnotes. This will facilitate the application of the Government Printer's computerised phototypesetting system to the printing of legislation.

Clause 1 - Short title, etc.

This is a customary provision which sets out the short title - the Acts Interpretation Amendment Act 1980 - and provides that the Acts Interpretation Act 1901 is, in the new Act, referred to as the Principal Act.

Clause 2 - Commencement

The Act will be deemed to have come into operation on 1 January 1980. This will enable all Bills introduced in the Autumn Sittings 1980 (and thereafter) to be printed in the new form.

Clause 3 - Headings, schedules, marginal notes, footnotes and endnotes

The clause amends section 13 of the Principal Act by providing for a new sub-section 13(3).

Sub-section 13(3) of the Principal Act provides that marginal notes and footnotes to any Act do not form part of an

Act. The new sub-section 13(3) provides that as well as marginal notes and footnotes, headings to a section of an Act and endnotes are not to be regarded as part of an Act.

By virtue of section 46 of the Acts Interpretation Act, the new sub-section will also apply to Statutory Rules.