



Bills referred for Committee scrutiny

Extradition and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation Amendment Bill 2011

Legislative Instruments Amendment (Sunsetting) Bill 2011

The House of Representatives has referred two bills to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs for scrutiny after the Selection Committee, responsible for House programming, deemed that they warranted further scrutiny than allowed for in the Chamber.

The bills are the:

- Extradition and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation Amendment Bill 2011; and
- Legislative Instruments Amendment (Sunsetting) Bill 2011

The Extradition and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 will amend a number of Acts in relation to extradition and mutual assistance and, in short, is intended to:

- For extradition: address privacy matters, delays, availability of bail, waivers, prosecutions within Australia, consent, the definition of 'political offence' as well as requiring Australia to refuse to extradite a person who may be prejudiced by reason of his/her sex or sexual orientation.
- For mutual assistance: increase law enforcement assistance to other countries and streamline these processes and to strengthen protections against providing assistance where there are death penalty or torture concerns.

The Legislative Instruments Amendment (Sunsetting) Bill 2011 intends to clarify the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* (LIA) to ensure that retrospective instruments sunset 10 years from the date they are made, not the date they are in force, as is the current interpretation of the Act.

'The Committee is keen to hear from the public about any issues of concern with these bills,' Committee Chair Graham Perrett MP said. 'It is important that the process of bills scrutiny is open and transparent and the Committee will be reporting to the House on matters raised with it concerning the enactment of these bills.'

The Committee will be reporting to the House when it resumes in August 2011. The bills are available on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/spla and submissions are welcome by 22 July 2011.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0408 883 312.

For background information, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs:**

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