

Progress of Legislation @ 20/10/2005

What's Law?

Title of Bill	Purpose	Introduced in the House of Reps	Passed in the House of Reps	Introduced in the Senate	Passed in the Senate	Royal Assent	Act Number
Family and Community Services and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2004 Election Commitments and Other Measures) Bill 2004	The purpose of this Bill is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase the rate of family tax benefit part B (by introducing a new FTB Part B supplement; and exempt aged care accommodation bonds from social security and veterans' affairs means test. 	17/02/05	08/03/05	09/03/05	09/03/05	21/03/05	29
Superannuation Laws Amendment (Abolition of Surcharge) Bill 2005	This Bill abolishes the surcharge payable on individuals' surchargeable contributions and relevant termination payments, with effect from 1 July 2005.	26/05/05	31/05/05	14/06/05	10/08/05	12/08/05	102
Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Choice of Superannuation Funds) Bill 2005	The purpose of this Bill is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impose a penalty on employers who recoup from employees the costs from complying with their choice of fund requirements; specify circumstances where an employer does not have to provide employees with a standard choice form; clarify a number of matters, including the test for whether a defined benefit fund is in surplus, the obligation on the employer to contribute to the fund specified as the default fund on the standard choice form, that a fund chosen by an employee prior to 1 July 2005 is taken to be a chosen fund, and also a clarification of the penalty provisions; 	26/05/05	01/06/05	14/06/05	23/06/05	29/06/05	82

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specify that the Australian Securities and Investment Commission will administer the 'no employer kick back' provision in the <i>Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993</i>; • allow the Superannuation Holding Accounts Special Account to be an eligible choice fund for employers until 30 June 2006; and • close the Superannuation Holding Accounts Special Account to new employer deposits from 1 July 2006. 						
Tax Laws Amendment (2005 Measures No 1) Bill 2005	<p>The purpose of this Bill is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement a range of changes / improvements to Australia's tax system; and • provide a tax offset (maximum of \$500) for workers aged 55 and over to encourage and reward participation in the workforce. 	10/02/05	16/02/05	07/03/05	23/06/05	29/06/05	77
Tax Laws Amendment (2005 Measures No. 2) Bill 2005	<p>The purpose of this Bill is to implement a range of changes and improvements to Australia's taxation system, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amending the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> to provide appropriate tax treatment for superannuation annuities that have been split upon marriage breakdown. 	17/03/05	16/06/05	20/06/05	23/06/05	29/06/05	78
Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy and Medicare Levy Surcharge) Bill 2005	<p>The Purpose of this Bill is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the Medicare levy low income thresholds for individuals and families. The dependent child/student component of the family threshold will also be increased. • increase the Medicare levy low income threshold for pensioners below age pension age so that they do not have a Medicare levy liability where they do not have an income tax liability; and • increase the Medicare levy surcharge low income threshold in line with movements in the CPI. 	26/05/05	31/05/05	14/06/05	15/06/05	26/06/05	62
Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax	<p>The purpose of this Bill is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amend the <i>Income Tax Rates Act 1986</i> to reduce the lowest marginal tax rate from 17 per cent to 15 per cent and to increase the top two personal 	12/05/05	25/05/05	14/06/05	15/06/05	12/08/05	101

Reduction) Bill 2005	<p>income tax thresholds; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amend the <i>Medicare Levy Act 1986</i> to increase the income threshold that applies to taxpayers who are eligible for a rebate of tax under section 160AAAA of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> (the senior Australians tax offset). 						
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Source – Capital Monitor

What's Pending?

Title of Bill	Purpose	Introduced in the House of Reps	Passed in the House of Reps	Introduced in the Senate	Passed in the Senate	Royal Assent	Act Number
Tax Laws Amendment (Loss Recoupment Rules and Other Measures) Bill 2005	The purpose of this Bill is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amend the <i>Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992</i> to allow the offsetting of a late payment of contributions against an employer's superannuation guarantee charge; and • amend the <i>Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992</i> to clarify that mandatory employer contributions under the superannuation guarantee arrangements are payable on wages or salary paid in a quarter following the termination of an employment relationship. 	14/09/05	12/10/05	12/10/05	TBA	TBA	TBA
Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2005	The purpose of this Bill is to allow members to split both their personal and employer superannuation contributions with their spouse. It will provide single-income with access to two eligible termination payments low-rate thresholds and two reasonable benefit limits in a similar way to dual income families.	12/10/05	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Source – Capital Monitor

Regulations

The Government have also released the:

1. Retirement Savings Accounts Amendment Regulations 2005 (No. 1) and the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Regulations 2005 (No. 2). These regulations allow a person who has reached their preservation age to access their superannuation through an income stream without having to retire permanently from the workforce.
2. Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Regulations 2005 (No 3). These regulations provide that from 1 July 2005 superannuation balances can be moved from one fund to another; known as portability, without having to wait 6 months from the date of the last employer contribution.

This material has been provided as a guide only. The information about the bills may have changed since the publication of this material and you should always check it prior to relying on it. TOWER does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information. You can check the current status of bills with the relevant Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretary or on the website for Parliament House: www.aph.gov.au