**EGG INDUSTRY STABILISATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1980**

**Legislative Council, 6 March 1980, page 1500**

Second reading

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT (Minister of Community Welfare):** I move: That this Bill be now read a second time.

The principal purpose of this amending Bill is to make provision for the variation of hen quotas for poultry farmers during the year, in accordance with fluctuations in the demand for eggs. At the present time the Act provides for one 12-month season, for which each licensed farmer has a hen quota. This cannot be varied within the season. There are clearly recognised fluctuations in the demand for eggs during these seasons; in spring to early summer there tends to be an over supply of eggs, while in winter there is a corresponding shortage. The existing legislation gives the South Australian Egg Board no flexibility to accommodate these market conditions.

These amendments will overcome this problem by allowing the Minister to fix licensing seasons for any period; thus seasons of less than 12 months may be set, each with appropriate hen quotas. The effect of these proposals is in line with interstate practice, and would enable the board to pursue vigorous and imaginative policies which it has developed for the marketing of eggs. In addition to the main amendments necessary for this proposal, the Bill effects several consequential changes to the principal Act, and removes or modifies provisions of the Act which have become wholly or partially obsolete.

I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 4 of the principal Act which defines certain expressions used therein. The amendment removes the definition of “first licensing season” , which is no longer needed, and substitutes for the existing definition of “hen quota” a new definition of that term which is more simple and more appropriate in view of the central amendments proposed in this Bill. The definition of “licensing season” is also recast to fit the new scheme and the definition of “the appointed day” , which related to the first licensing season and which is, therefore, unnecessary at the present time, is removed. This clause also deletes subsection (5) of section 4 which also related to the first licensing season, and substitutes a new subsection (5) which comprises the central provision of these amendments. The proposed subsection (5) empowers the Minister to fix any period as a licensing season by notice published in the Gazette, and to vary or revoke any such notice. Clause 4 amends section 15 of the principal Act which is concerned with the issuing of seasonal licences to poultry farmers. The amendment substitutes reference to “the prescribed fee” in relation to licences for the existing reference to “the prescribed annual fee. . . ” and inserts a new subsection (1a) which, in effect, will enable the board to issue licences for two or more seasons in a year, while only requiring applications and fees on one occasion during that year. Clause 5 effects a minor consequential amendment to section 17 of the principal Act.

Clause 6 repeals section 23 of the principal Act which deals with the calculation of hen quotas, and substitutes a new and less complex provision which is now appropriate in view of the removal of reference to the first licensing season from the principal Act. The new section provides that unless it is varied, the hen quota for a poultry farmer in any licensing season shall be the same as for the last preceding season. Clause 7 provides for a corresponding modification of section 24 of the principal Act which is concerned with the variation of hen quotas for poultry farmers. Clause 8 amends section 42 of the principal Act which is concerned with the Licensing Committee’s annual report. The amendment ensures that only one report will be required each year, notwithstanding that there may now be more than one licensing season in that period.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS secured the adjournment of the debate.