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Independent

Euthanasia Referendum Bill 1997

Explanatory Memorandum

This Bill would enact the 'enabling legislation' to allow the conduct of a referendum on the specified questions.

The legislation relies on the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1994*, which specifies the procedures for conducting referenda. That Act, in turn, relies upon the *Electoral Act 1994*. The result of these legal procedures is that referenda are conducted by the ACT Electoral Commission, in a manner very similar to the conduct of elections.

For each referendum, enabling legislation must be passed by the Assembly, authorising the poll and specifying all the unique features of the referendum

Clause 3 - This clause provides for interpretation of terms in this Bill.

Clause 4 - This clause sets the date of the referendum (ie. the 1998 elections). The date will shift with that election if its date is moved by a Federal poll.

Clause 5 - This clause provides some details for the form of the ballot papers.

Clause 6 - This Clause relates to the published cases (known as 'authorised statements') for and against each question. It provides that there may be a Yes and No statement made out for each question. The Clause provides that the authorising committees for each statement shall consist of Members nominated by the Assembly. After passage of the legislation, the Assembly would pass a resolution appointing members to draft (or at least, authorise) the statements.

Schedule - The Schedule specifies the text of the two proposed questions.

Michael Moore
18 June 1997