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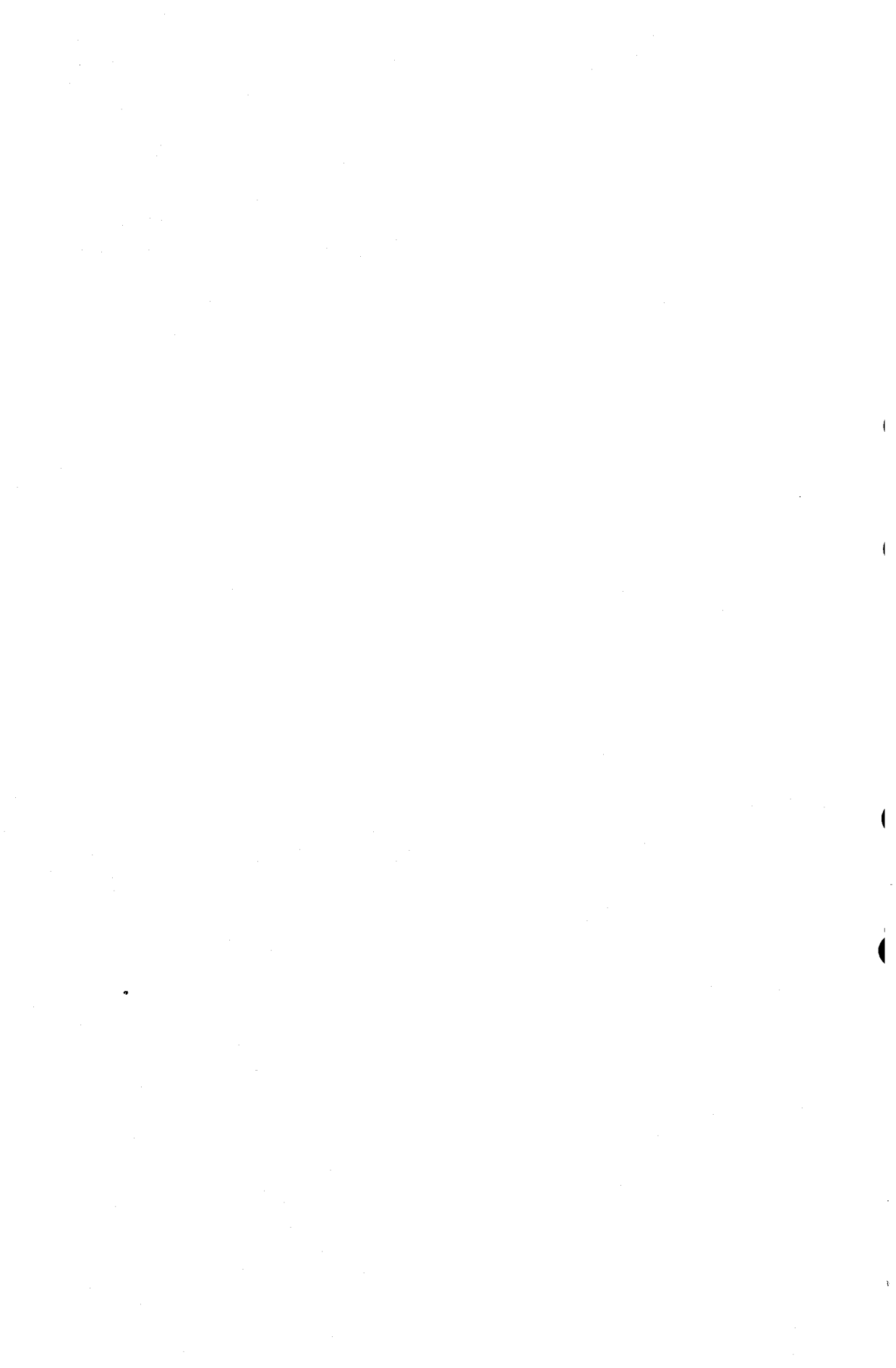
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

SENATE

REFERENDUM (MACHINERY PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1988

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Administrative
Services, the Hon. Stewart West MP)



OUTLINE

This Bill provides that the registered officers or deputy registered officers of political parties registered under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 may appoint scrutineers for polling places and counting centres.

The Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984 provides that scrutineers may be appointed for polling places and counting centres by the Governor-General, by a State Governor, by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, or persons authorised by them. No provision is made for appointment of scrutineers by political parties.

Financial Impact Statement

As the provisions are administrative amendments there will be no costs involved in their implementation.

CLAUSE NOTES

Clauses 1 and 2

The first two clauses provide for the short title and for the Act to come into operation on the day which it receives Royal Assent.

Clause 3: Appointment of scrutineers by political parties

Amends section 27 of the Principal Act to provide that the registered officer or deputy registered officer of a political party registered under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 may appoint scrutineers at places where voting is being conducted.

Clause 4: Ascertainment of result of referendum

Amends section 89 of the Principal Act to provide that the registered officer or deputy registered officer of a political party registered under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 may appoint scrutineers at places where scrutiny or counting of ballot papers is being conducted.