



# **Insurance Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1991**

**No. 6, 1992**

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## About this compilation

### This compilation

This is a compilation of the *Insurance Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1991* that shows the text of the law as amended and in force on 1 March 2024 (the *compilation date*).

The notes at the end of this compilation (the *endnotes*) include information about amending laws and the amendment history of provisions of the compiled law.

### Uncommenced amendments

The effect of uncommenced amendments is not shown in the text of the compiled law. Any uncommenced amendments affecting the law are accessible on the Register ([www.legislation.gov.au](http://www.legislation.gov.au)). The details of amendments made up to, but not commenced at, the compilation date are underlined in the endnotes. For more information on any uncommenced amendments, see the Register for the compiled law.

### Application, saving and transitional provisions for provisions and amendments

If the operation of a provision or amendment of the compiled law is affected by an application, saving or transitional provision that is not included in this compilation, details are included in the endnotes.

### Editorial changes

For more information about any editorial changes made in this compilation, see the endnotes.

### Modifications

If the compiled law is modified by another law, the compiled law operates as modified but the modification does not amend the text of the law. Accordingly, this compilation does not show the text of the compiled law as modified. For more information on any modifications, see the Register for the compiled law.

### Self-repealing provisions

If a provision of the compiled law has been repealed in accordance with a provision of the law, details are included in the endnotes.

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# An Act relating to the control of Australian-registered insurance companies, and for other purposes

## Part 1—Preliminary

### 1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Insurance Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1991*.

### 2 Commencement

- (1) Subject to this section, this Act commences on a day to be fixed by Proclamation.
- (2) If this Act does not commence under subsection (1) within the period of 6 months beginning on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent, it commences on the first day after the end of that period.

### 3 Objects of Act and simplified outline of Act

The following is a statement setting out the objects of this Act and a simplified outline of this Act:

#### Objects of Act

- To set out rules about the **control** of, and the **compulsory notification** of proposals relating to:
  - (a) the **acquisition or leasing of assets** of Australian-registered insurance companies (Part 3);  
or

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- (b) the entering into of **agreements** relating to **directors** of Australian-registered insurance companies (Part 4).
- To protect the **public interest** in a number of ways, including:
  - (a) ensuring that the affairs of Australian-registered insurance companies are carried out in a **prudential manner**; and
  - (b) preventing **persons who are not fit and proper** from being in a **position of influence** over Australian-registered insurance companies; and
  - (c) preventing the **undue concentration of economic power** in the Australian general insurance industry, in the Australian life insurance industry or in the Australian financial system.

**Simplified outline of Act**

- A proposal must be **notified** to the Minister.
- A proposal can be **stopped** if the Minister makes a **permanent restraining order**.
- A proposal can be **carried out** if the Minister makes a **go-ahead decision**.
- If an unauthorised proposal is carried out, the Minister can make a **divestment order**.
- This Act is enforced by **criminal sanctions** and **court orders**.



## 4 Interpretation

(1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

**accounting period** means:

- (a) in relation to a company authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business—the company’s financial year (within the meaning of that Act); or
- (b) in relation to a company registered under section 21 of the *Life Insurance Act 1995*—the company’s financial year (within the meaning of that Act).

**acquisition** includes an agreement to acquire, but does not include:

- (a) an acquisition by will or by devolution by operation of law; or
- (b) an acquisition by way of enforcement of a security held solely for the purposes of a moneylending agreement.

**agreement** means any agreement, whether formal or informal and whether express or implied, but does not include a moneylending agreement.

**APRA** means the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

**arrangement** has the meaning given by section 6.

**asset** includes an interest in an asset.

**associate** has the meaning given by section 7.

**associate-inclusive control interest** has the meaning given by section 14.

**Australia** includes the external Territories.

**Australian general insurance industry** means so much of the Australian insurance industry as does not consist of the Australian life insurance industry.

**Australian-registered insurance company** means:

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- (a) a company authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business; or
  - (b) a company registered under section 21 of the *Life Insurance Act 1995*;
- but does not include:
- (c) a company any part of the activities of which consists of State banking not extending beyond the limits of the State concerned (within the meaning of paragraph 51(xiii) of the Constitution); or
  - (d) a company any part of the activities of which consists of State insurance not extending beyond the limits of the State concerned (within the meaning of paragraph 51(xiv) of the Constitution).

***book outstanding claims provision***, in relation to a company, in relation to a particular date, means:

- (a) if the company was authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business at the end of the last accounting period of the company before that date—the company’s outstanding claims liability (within the meaning of the prudential standards determined under that Act) as at the end of that accounting period; or
- (b) in any other case—the company’s outstanding claims provision as at that date.

***book unearned premiums provision***, in relation to a company, in relation to a particular date, means:

- (a) if the company was authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business at the end of the last accounting period of the company before that date—the company’s premiums liability (within the meaning of the prudential standards determined under that Act) as at the end of that accounting period; or
- (b) in any other case—the company’s unearned premiums provision as at that date.

***book value***, in relation to an asset held by a company at a particular time, means:

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- (a) if the company:
  - (i) was authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business; or
  - (ii) was registered under section 21 of the *Life Insurance Act 1995*;  
at the end of the last accounting period of the company before that time—the value of the asset as at the end of that accounting period; or
- (b) in any other case—the value of the asset as at that time.

**child:** without limiting who is a child of a person for the purposes of this Act, someone is the **child** of a person if he or she is a child of the person within the meaning of the *Family Law Act 1975*.

**company** means a body corporate.

**constituent document**, in relation to a company, means:

- (a) the memorandum and articles of association of the company;  
or
- (b) any rules or other documents constituting the company or governing its activities.

**contract of insurance** includes a contract of life insurance and **insurer** has a corresponding meaning.

**contract of life insurance** means a life policy or sinking fund policy, within the meaning of the *Life Insurance Act 1995*.

**direct control interest** has the meaning given by section 15.

**director** includes any person occupying the position of director of a company, by whatever name called.

**discretionary trust** means a trust where:

- (a) a person (who may include the trustee) is empowered (either unconditionally or on the fulfilment of a condition) to exercise any power of appointment or other discretion; and

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- (b) the exercise of the power or discretion, or the failure to exercise the power or discretion, has the effect of determining, to any extent, either or both of the following:
- (i) the identities of those who may benefit under the trust;
  - (ii) how beneficiaries are to benefit, as between themselves, under the trust.

**Federal Court** means the Federal Court of Australia.

**insurance business** has the same meaning as in the *Insurance Act 1973*.

**interest in an asset** has the meaning given by section 10.

**interest in a share** has the meaning given by section 11.

**lending money** includes providing non-equity finance where the provision of the finance may reasonably be regarded as equivalent to lending money.

**life insurance business** has the same meaning as in the *Life Insurance Act 1995*.

**moneylending agreement** means an agreement entered into in good faith in the ordinary course of carrying on a business of lending money, but does not include an agreement dealing with any matter unrelated to the carrying on of that business.

**non-arm's length arrangement** means an arrangement where the parties to the arrangement are not dealing with each other at arm's length in relation to the arrangement.

**non-arm's length transaction** means a transaction where the parties to the transaction are not dealing with each other at arm's length in relation to the transaction.

**officer**, in relation to a company, includes:

- (a) a director, secretary or employee of the company; or

- (b) a receiver and manager of any part of the undertaking of the company appointed under a power contained in any instrument; or
- (c) a liquidator of the company appointed in a voluntary winding up.

**outstanding claims provision**, in relation to a company, means so much of the total provision for liabilities made in its accounts as consists of provision for claims, reduced by any allowance made in its accounts for reinsurance recoverables in respect of the claims.

**parent**: without limiting who is a parent of a person for the purposes of this Act, someone is the **parent** of a person if the person is his or her child because of the definition of **child** in this section.

**prudential conduct**, in relation to a company, means the conduct by the company of its affairs (whether or not relating to the insurance business or life insurance business of the company):

- (a) in such a way as:
  - (i) to keep itself in a sound financial position; and
  - (ii) not to cause or promote instability in the Australian general insurance industry, in the Australian life insurance industry or in the Australian financial system; and
- (b) with integrity, prudence and professional skill.

**relative**, in relation to a person, means:

- (a) the person's spouse; or
- (b) the person's de facto partner within the meaning of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*; or
- (c) a parent or remoter lineal ancestor of the person; or
- (d) a child or remoter issue of the person; or
- (e) a brother or sister of the person.

Note: See also subsection (2).

**reviewable decision** means a decision of the Minister under Part 3 or 4 or paragraph 66(1)(b).

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**share**, in relation to a company, means a share in the share capital of the company, and includes:

- (a) stock into which any or all of the share capital of the company has been converted; or
- (b) an interest in such a share or in such stock.

**total book net liabilities**, in relation to a company's contracts of life insurance, in relation to a particular date, means:

- (a) if the company was registered under section 21 of the *Life Insurance Act 1995* at the end of the last accounting period of the company before that date—the total net liabilities in respect of all of the company's contracts of life insurance as at the end of that accounting period; or
- (b) in any other case—the total net liabilities in respect of all of the company's contracts of life insurance as at that date.

**unearned premiums provision**, in relation to a company, means so much of the total provision for liabilities made in its accounts as consists of provision for unearned premiums.

**value** of an asset of a company at a particular time means the amount that, if:

- (a) an accounting period of the company had ended at that time; and
- (b) the company had, under the *Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act 2001*, given to APRA copies of financial statements for, or as at the end of, that accounting period; and
- (c) the financial statements had been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting principles;

would have been shown in those statements as the value of the asset at that time.

**voting power** has the meaning given by section 13.

- (2) For the purposes of paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of the definition of **relative** in subsection (1), if one person is the child of another person because of the definition of **child** in that subsection,

relationships traced to or through the person are to be determined on the basis that the person is the child of the other person.

## **5 What is contrary to the public interest**

- (1) For the purposes of the application of this Act to an Australian-registered insurance company, and without limiting when a matter is taken to be contrary to the public interest, a particular matter is taken to be contrary to the public interest if it is:
  - (a) likely to adversely affect the prudential conduct of the affairs of the company; or
  - (b) likely to result in a person who is not a fit and proper person to be in a position of influence over the company being in such a position of influence; or
  - (c) likely to unduly concentrate economic power in the Australian general insurance industry, in the Australian life insurance industry or in the Australian financial system; or
  - (d) contrary to the national interest.
- (2) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine circumstances in which a person is taken, for the purposes of paragraph (1)(b), to be in a position of influence over an Australian-registered insurance company.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not limit the circumstances in which a person is taken to be in such a position of influence.

*Matters to which Minister has regard in considering public interest*

- (4) The following paragraphs apply in relation to the Minister considering, for the purposes of this Act, whether a particular matter is contrary to the public interest:
  - (a) in considering whether the matter is likely to have the effect mentioned in paragraph (1)(a), the Minister:
    - (i) must have regard to any matters determined under subsection (6) for the purposes of this subparagraph; and

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- (ii) may have regard to any matters determined under that subsection for the purposes of this subparagraph;
  - (b) in considering whether the matter is likely to have the result mentioned in paragraph (1)(b), the Minister:
    - (i) must have regard to any matters determined under subsection (6) for the purposes of this subparagraph; and
    - (ii) may have regard to any matters determined under that subsection for the purposes of this subparagraph;
  - (c) in considering whether the matter is likely to have the effect mentioned in paragraph (1)(c), the Minister:
    - (i) must have regard to any matters determined under subsection (6) for the purposes of this subparagraph; and
    - (ii) may have regard to any matters determined under that subsection for the purposes of this subparagraph;
  - (d) in considering whether the matter is contrary to the national interest as mentioned in paragraph (1)(d), the Minister:
    - (i) must have regard to any matters determined under subsection (6) for the purposes of this subparagraph; and
    - (ii) may have regard to any matters determined under that subsection for the purposes of this subparagraph;
  - (e) in considering whether the matter is contrary to the public interest other than as mentioned in paragraph (1)(a), (b), (c) or (d), the Minister:
    - (i) must have regard to any matters determined under subsection (6) for the purposes of this subparagraph; and
    - (ii) may have regard to any matters determined under that subsection for the purposes of this subparagraph.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not limit the matters to which the Minister may have regard.



- (6) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine matters for the purposes of subparagraph (4)(a)(i) or (ii), (b)(i) or (ii), (c)(i) or (ii), (d)(i) or (ii) or (e)(i) or (ii).

Note: The making of certain decisions or orders under Parts 3 and 4 in relation to an Australian-registered insurance company depends on the Minister being satisfied that a particular matter (such as a proposal, acquisition or arrangement) is, would be or will be contrary to the public interest.

## 6 Entering into an agreement or arrangement

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, a person is taken to have proposed to enter into an agreement or arrangement if the person takes part in, or proposes to take part in, negotiations with a view to entering into the agreement or arrangement.
- (2) A reference in this Act to entering into an agreement or arrangement includes a reference to altering or varying an agreement or arrangement.
- (3) A reference in this Act to entering into an arrangement is a reference to entering into any formal or informal scheme, arrangement or understanding, whether expressly or by implication and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes a reference to:
- (a) entering into an agreement; or
  - (b) creating a trust, whether express or implied; or
  - (c) entering into a transaction;
- and a reference in this Act to an arrangement is to be construed accordingly.
- (4) A reference in this Act to an arrangement does not include a reference to a moneylending agreement.

## 7 Associates

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, the following persons are associates of a person:
- (a) a relative of the person;

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- (b) a partner of the person;
  - (c) a corporation of which the person is an officer;
  - (d) if the person is a company—an officer of the company;
  - (e) an employee or employer of the person;
  - (f) an officer of a company of which the person is an officer;
  - (g) an employee of a natural person of whom the person is an employee;
  - (h) the trustee of a discretionary trust where the person or another person who is an associate of the person by virtue of another paragraph of this subsection benefits, or is capable (whether by the exercise of a power of appointment or otherwise) of benefiting, under the trust, either directly or through any interposed companies, partnerships or trusts;
  - (i) a company whose directors are accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the person;
  - (j) a company where the person is accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the company;
  - (k) a company in which the person has, apart from this paragraph, an associate-inclusive control interest of not less than 15%;
  - (l) a person who is, because of this subsection, an associate of any other person who is an associate of the person (including a person who is an associate of the person by any other application or applications of this paragraph).
- (2) If a person (in this subsection called the **first person**) enters, or proposes to enter, into an arrangement with another person (in this subsection called the **second person**) that relates to any of the following matters:
- (a) the first person and the second person being in a position, by acting together, to control any of the voting power in a company;
  - (b) the power of the first person and the second person, by acting together, to appoint or remove a director of a company;

- (c) the situation where one or more of the directors of a company are accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the first person and the second person acting together;

then, the second person is taken to be an associate of the first person for the purposes of the application of a provision of this Act in relation to the matter concerned.

## **8 Proposals to acquire shares or assets**

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, a person is taken to propose to acquire shares or assets if the person:
  - (a) makes an offer to acquire the shares or assets; or
  - (b) makes or publishes a statement (however expressed) that expressly or impliedly invites a holder of the shares or assets to offer to dispose of the shares or assets; or
  - (c) takes part in, or proposes to take part in, negotiations with a view to the acquisition of the shares or assets.
- (2) A reference in this section to an asset includes a reference to any or all of the interests, rights or benefits of an Australian-registered insurance company under a contract of insurance where the company is the insurer.

## **9 Meaning of *entitled to acquire***

For the purposes of this Act, a person is entitled to acquire anything if the person is absolutely or contingently entitled to acquire it, whether because of any constituent document of a company, the exercise of any right or option or for any other reason.

## **10 Meaning of *interest in an asset***

- (1) Subject to this section, a person holds an interest in an asset if the person has any legal or equitable interest in the asset.

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- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a person is taken to hold an interest in an asset if:
- (a) the person has entered into a contract to purchase the asset; or
  - (b) the person has a right (otherwise than because of having an interest under a trust) to have the asset transferred to the person or to the person's order (whether the right is exercisable presently or in the future and whether or not on the fulfilment of a condition); or
  - (c) the person has a right to acquire the asset, or an interest in the asset, under an option (whether the right is exercisable presently or in the future and whether or not on the fulfilment of a condition); or
  - (d) the person is otherwise entitled to acquire the asset or an interest in the asset.
- (3) A person is taken to hold an interest in an asset even if the person holds the interest in the asset jointly with another person.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, an interest in an asset must be disregarded if it is held by a person whose ordinary business includes the lending of money and the person holds the interest solely by way of security for the purposes of a moneylending agreement.
- (5) An interest in an asset is not to be disregarded only because of:
- (a) its remoteness; or
  - (b) the manner in which it arose; or
  - (c) the fact that the exercise of a right conferred by the interest is, or is capable of being made, subject to restraint or restriction.

### **11 Meaning of *interest in a share***

- (1) Subject to this section, a person holds an interest in a share if the person has any legal or equitable interest in the share.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a person is taken to hold an interest in a share if:

- (a) the person has entered into a contract to purchase the share;  
or
  - (b) the person has a right (otherwise than because of having an interest under a trust) to have the share transferred to the person or to the person's order (whether the right is exercisable presently or in the future and whether or not on the fulfilment of a condition); or
  - (c) the person has a right to acquire the share, or an interest in the share, under an option (whether the right is exercisable presently or in the future and whether or not on the fulfilment of a condition); or
  - (d) the person is otherwise entitled to acquire the share or an interest in the share; or
  - (e) the person is entitled (otherwise than because of having been appointed as a proxy or representative to vote at a meeting of members of the company or of a class of its members) to exercise or control the exercise of a right attached to the share.
- (3) A person is taken to hold an interest in a share even if the person holds the interest in the share jointly with another person.
- (4) For the purpose of determining whether a person holds an interest in a share, it is immaterial that the interest cannot be related to a particular share.
- (5) An interest in a share is not to be disregarded only because of:
- (a) its remoteness; or
  - (b) the manner in which it arose; or
  - (c) the fact that the exercise of a right conferred by the interest is, or is capable of being made, subject to restraint or restriction.

## **12 Certain interests in shares to be disregarded**

For the purposes of this Act, the following interests must be disregarded:

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- (a) an interest in a share of a person whose ordinary business includes the lending of money if the person holds the interest solely by way of security for the purposes of a moneylending agreement;
- (b) an interest in a share of a person, being an interest held by the person because the person holds a prescribed office;
- (c) an interest of a prescribed kind in a share, being an interest of such person as is prescribed.

### 13 Voting power

- (1) A reference in this Act to the voting power in a company is a reference to the total rights of shareholders to vote, or participate in any decision-making, concerning any of the following:
  - (a) the making of distributions of capital or profits of the company to its shareholders;
  - (b) the constituent document of the company;
  - (c) any variation of the share capital of the company.
- (2) A reference in this Act to control of the voting power in a company is a reference to control that is direct or indirect, including control that is exercisable as a result of or by means of arrangements or practices:
  - (a) whether or not having legal or equitable force; and
  - (b) whether or not based on legal or equitable rights.
- (3) If the percentage of total rights to vote or participate in decision-making differs as between different types of voting or decision-making, the highest of those percentages applies for the purposes of this section.
- (4) If a company:
  - (a) is limited both by shares and by guarantee; or

- (b) does not have a share capital; or
- (c) is an MCI mutual entity (within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001*);

this section has effect as if the members or policy holders of the company were shareholders in the company.

#### **14 Associate-inclusive control interest in a company**

- (1) A particular type of associate-inclusive control interest that a person holds in a company at a particular time is the aggregate of:
  - (a) the direct control interests in the company of that type that the person holds at that time; and
  - (b) the direct control interests in the company of that type held at that time by associates of the person.
- (2) In calculating the associate-inclusive control interest that a person holds in a company, a direct control interest held because of subsection 15(5) is not to be counted under paragraph (1)(a) to the extent to which it is calculated by reference to a direct control interest in the company that is taken into account under paragraph (1)(b).

#### **15 Direct control interests in a company**

- (1) A person holds a direct control interest in a company at a particular time equal to the percentage of the total paid-up share capital of the company in which the person holds an interest at that time.
- (2) A person also holds a direct control interest in a company at a particular time equal to the percentage of the voting power in the company that the person is in a position to control at that time.
- (3) A person also holds a direct control interest in a company at a particular time equal to the percentage that the person holds, or is entitled to acquire, at that time of the total rights to distributions of capital or profits of the company to its shareholders on winding-up.
- (4) A person also holds a direct control interest in a company at a particular time equal to the percentage that the person holds, or is

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entitled to acquire, at that time of the total rights to distributions of capital or profits of the company to its shareholders, otherwise than on winding-up.

(5) If:

- (a) a person holds a particular type of direct control interest (including a direct control interest that is taken to be held because of one or more previous applications of this subsection) in a company (in this subsection called the *first level company*); and
- (b) the first level company holds the same type of direct control interest in another company (in this subsection called the *second level company*);

the person is taken to hold that type of direct control interest in the second level company equal to the percentage calculated using the formula:

$$\text{First level percentage} \times \text{Second level percentage}$$

where:

***First level percentage*** means the percentage of the direct control interest held by the person in the first level company.

***Second level percentage*** means the percentage of the direct control interest held by the first level company in the second level company.

## 16 Power to appoint director

- (1) A reference in this Act to a power to appoint a director includes a reference to such a power whether exercisable with or without the consent or concurrence of any other person.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, a person is taken to have the power to appoint a director if:
  - (a) the person has the power (whether exercisable with or without the consent or concurrence of any other person) to veto such an appointment; or



- (b) a person's appointment as a director of the company follows necessarily from that person being a director or other officer of the first-mentioned person.

### **17 Deemed notices—options**

For the purposes of this Act, if a person gives a notice to the Minister stating that the person has or proposes to acquire an option to acquire shares or assets, the notice has effect as if it included a statement that the person proposes to acquire the shares or assets.

### **17A Approved manner and form of giving notices**

- (1) This section applies in relation to giving a notice if another provision of this Act refers to giving the notice in accordance with this section.
- (2) The notice is given in accordance with this section if the notice:
  - (a) is given:
    - (i) if the Minister has approved a manner for giving the notice under subsection (3)—in the approved manner; or
    - (ii) otherwise—in writing; and
  - (b) if the Minister has approved a form for giving the notice under subsection (3):
    - (i) is given in the approved form; and
    - (ii) includes the information required by the form; and
    - (iii) is accompanied by the documents (if any) required by the form; and
  - (c) includes the information (if any) prescribed by regulations made for the purposes of this paragraph in relation to the notice; and
  - (d) is accompanied by the documents (if any) prescribed by regulations made for the purposes of this paragraph in relation to the notice.

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- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(a) or (b), the Minister may, in writing, approve a manner or form for giving the notice.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), a form approved under that subsection may be:
  - (a) the form of a statutory declaration; or
  - (b) a form that requires a matter to be verified by a statutory declaration.

### 18 Application of Act

- (1) This Act extends to all the external Territories.
- (2) This Act extends to acts, omissions, matters and things outside Australia, whether or not in a foreign country.
- (3) This Act binds the Crown in right of the Commonwealth, of each of the States, of the Australian Capital Territory and of the Northern Territory.
- (4) The Crown in a capacity covered by subsection (3) is not liable to be prosecuted for an offence against, or arising out of, this Act.

### 19 Severability

- (1) If this Act would be wholly or partly invalid apart from this subsection, this Act has effect as if each reference in this Act to an Australian-registered insurance company were, by express provision, confined to an Australian-registered insurance company that:
  - (a) carries on as its sole or principal business the business of insurance; or
  - (b) carries on as its principal business the business of banking; or
  - (c) is a financial or trading corporation formed within the limits of the Commonwealth (within the meaning of paragraph 51(xx) of the Constitution); or
  - (d) is a foreign corporation (within the meaning of paragraph 51(xx) of the Constitution); or

(e) is incorporated in a Territory.

## **Part 3—Control of acquisition or leasing of assets of Australian-registered insurance companies**

### **Division 1—Interpretation**

#### **35 Interpretation**

In this Part:

*breach of condition offence* means an offence against subsection 41(3).

*conditional go-ahead decision* means a go-ahead decision made under subsection 41(1A).

*divestment order* means an order under section 44.

*go-ahead decision* means a decision under subsection 41(1) or (1A).

*permanent restraining order* means an order under section 43.

*trigger proposal* has the meaning given by section 36.

#### **36 Meaning of *trigger proposal*—proposals to acquire or lease assets of Australian-registered insurance companies**

If any of the following paragraphs applies:

- (a) both of the following conditions are satisfied:
  - (i) one or more persons propose to acquire assets of an Australian-registered insurance company under a non-arm's length transaction;
  - (ii) the sum of:
    - (A) the value of the assets proposed to be acquired;
    - and

- (B) the total value of any assets of the company acquired by the persons or their associates under non-arm's length transactions in the 12-month period before the date of the proposed acquisition;
- is 15% or more of the total book value of the assets of the company as at that date;
- (b) both of the following conditions are satisfied:
- (i) one or more persons propose to enter into a non-arm's length arrangement relating to the leasing or letting on hire of, or the granting of other rights to use, assets of an Australian-registered insurance company;
- (ii) the sum of:
- (A) the value of the assets concerned; and
- (B) if the persons or their associates have entered into one or more non-arm's length arrangements relating to the leasing or letting on hire of, or the granting of other rights to use, assets of the company, being arrangements entered into in the 12-month period before the date when the proposed arrangement referred to in subparagraph (i) will be entered into—the total value of those assets;
- is 15% or more of the total book value of the assets of the company as at that date;
- (c) all of the following conditions are satisfied:
- (i) one or more persons propose to acquire any or all of the interests, rights or benefits of an Australian-registered insurance company under one or more contracts of life insurance where the company is the insurer;
- (ii) the company is registered under section 21 of the *Life Insurance Act 1995*;
- (iii) the sum of:
- (A) the total net liabilities in respect of those contracts; and

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- (B) if the persons or their associates have acquired any or all of the interests, rights or benefits of the company under one or more contracts of life insurance where the company is the insurer, being acquisitions that occurred in the 12-month period before the date of the proposed acquisition referred to in subparagraph (i)—the total net liabilities in respect of those contracts;
- is 15% or more of the total book net liabilities in respect of all of the company's contracts of life insurance as at that date;
- (d) all of the following conditions are satisfied:
- (i) one or more persons propose to acquire any or all of the interests, rights or benefits of an Australian-registered insurance company under one or more contracts of insurance where the company is the insurer;
  - (ii) the company is authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business;
  - (iii) the sum of:
    - (A) any reduction in the company's unearned premiums provision resulting from the acquisition; and
    - (B) if the persons or their associates have acquired any or all of the interests, rights or benefits of the company under one or more contracts of insurance where the company is the insurer, being acquisitions that occurred in the 12-month period before the date of the proposed acquisition referred to in subparagraph (i)—the total of any reductions in the company's unearned premiums provision resulting from those acquisitions;is 15% or more of the company's book unearned premiums provision as at that date;
- (e) all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (i) one or more persons propose to acquire any or all of the interests, rights or benefits of an Australian-registered insurance company under one or more contracts of insurance where the company is the insurer;
- (ii) the company is authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business;
- (iii) the sum of:
  - (A) any reduction in the company's outstanding claims provision resulting from the acquisition; and
  - (B) if the persons or their associates have acquired any or all of the interests, rights or benefits of the company under one or more contracts of insurance where the company is the insurer, being acquisitions that occurred in the 12-month period before the date of the proposed acquisition referred to in subparagraph (i)—the total of any reductions in the company's outstanding claims provision resulting from those acquisitions;is 15% or more of the company's book outstanding claims provision as at that date;

the proposal is a trigger proposal for the purposes of this Part.

### **37 When trigger proposal carried out**

For the purposes of this Part, if one or more persons:

- (a) acquire assets as mentioned in paragraph 36(a); or
- (b) enter into an arrangement as mentioned in paragraph 36(b);  
or
- (c) acquire interests, rights or benefits as mentioned in paragraph 36(c), (d) or (e);

the person is, or each of the persons are, taken to have carried out a trigger proposal.

## **Division 2—Notification**

### **38 Compulsory notification of trigger proposal**

If:

- (a) a person carries out a trigger proposal; and
- (b) the person did not, before the acquisition or before entering into the arrangement, as the case may be, give to the Minister a notice in accordance with section 17A stating the person's intention to acquire the assets, interests, rights or benefits or to enter into the arrangement, as the case requires; and
- (c) either:
  - (i) the person knew that the proposal concerned was a trigger proposal; or
  - (ii) the person had reasonable grounds to suspect that the proposal concerned was a trigger proposal but did not make all reasonable efforts to ascertain whether it was a trigger proposal;

the person commits an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

### **40 Trigger proposal must not be carried out before a go-ahead decision is given**

If:

- (a) a person carries out a trigger proposal; and
- (b) the Minister did not give a go-ahead decision in relation to the proposal before the relevant acquisition occurred or the relevant arrangement was entered into;



the person commits an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

## **Division 3—Go-ahead decisions**

### **41 Unconditional or conditional go-ahead decision**

- (1) The Minister may decide that the Minister has no objection to a trigger proposal, if the Minister is satisfied that the trigger proposal, if carried out, is not likely to be contrary to the public interest.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

- (1A) The Minister may decide that the Minister has no objection to a trigger proposal so long as the person concerned complies with specified conditions, if the Minister is satisfied that the trigger proposal, if carried out, is not likely to be contrary to the public interest if the person concerned complies with those conditions.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

- (2) If the Minister makes a go-ahead decision, the person must be given written advice of the decision, and of the conditions (if any) applicable to the decision, before the end of 10 days after the day on which the decision is made.

- (3) If:

- (a) the person is given written advice of the go-ahead decision within the period of 10 days; and
- (b) the person carries out the proposal; and
- (c) the decision is a conditional go-ahead decision; and
- (d) the person does not comply with the conditions to which the decision is subject;

the person commits an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

- (4) If the Minister makes a go-ahead decision in relation to a trigger proposal, the Minister is not empowered to make a permanent restraining order in relation to the trigger proposal.

## **Division 4—Permanent restraining orders and divestment orders**

### **43 Permanent restraining order**

If the Minister is satisfied that the result of a trigger proposal would be contrary to the public interest, the Minister may, by notifiable instrument, make an order (in this Part called a ***permanent restraining order***) prohibiting the proposed acquisition or prohibiting the entering into of the proposed arrangement, as the case may be, to which the trigger proposal relates.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

### **44 Divestment order**

- (1) If:
- (a) a person carries out a trigger proposal; and
  - (b) the Minister is satisfied that the acquisition or arrangement is contrary to the public interest;
- the Minister may, for remedial purposes, by notifiable instrument, make an order (in this Part called a ***divestment order***):
- (c) in a case involving the acquisition of assets, interests, rights or benefits—directing a person acquiring the assets, interests, rights or benefits to dispose of those assets, interests, rights or benefits within a specified period to a person, or to any of the persons, approved in writing by the Minister; or
  - (d) in any case—directing specified persons to do within a specified period, or refrain from doing, specified acts or acts of a specified kind.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

- (1A) An approval of a person or persons under paragraph (1)(c):
- (a) is a notifiable instrument; and
  - (b) may be included in the same instrument as the divestment order.

- (2) Before the end of the period specified in a divestment order applicable to a person (including that period as extended under this subsection), the Minister may, by notifiable instrument, vary the order by extending or further extending that period.
- (2A) Subsection (2) does not limit the application of subsection 33(3) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* in relation to a divestment order.
- (3) The Minister must not refuse to approve a person for the purposes of subsection (1) unless the Minister is satisfied that it would be contrary to the public interest for that person to acquire the assets, interests, rights or benefits concerned.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

- (4) If:
- (a) a person is given written advice of a go-ahead decision before the end of 10 days after the day on which the decision is made; and
  - (b) the person carries out the proposal concerned;
- the Minister must not make a divestment order in relation to the proposal unless:
- (c) the person is convicted of a breach of condition offence in relation to the acquisition or arrangement; or
  - (d) an order is made under section 19B of the *Crimes Act 1914* in relation to the person in respect of a breach of condition offence in relation to the acquisition or arrangement.

#### **45 Offence of contravening permanent restraining order or divestment order**

A person who contravenes a permanent restraining order or divestment order commits an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not

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greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

**47 When orders come into operation**

- (1) A permanent restraining order comes into operation on the day specified in the order, which must not be before the order is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation under the *Legislation Act 2003*.
- (2) A divestment order comes into operation on the day specified in the order, which must be at least 30 days after the order is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation under the *Legislation Act 2003*.

**48 Revocation of orders**

- (1) The Minister may, at any time, by notifiable instrument, revoke a permanent restraining order or a divestment order.
- (2) The Minister must not revoke a permanent restraining order or divestment order if the Minister is satisfied that it would be contrary to the public interest to do so.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

## **Part 4—Control of agreements relating to the directorate of Australian-registered insurance companies**

### **Division 1—Interpretation**

#### **49 Interpretation**

In this Part:

*breach of condition offence* means an offence against subsection 55(3).

*conditional go-ahead decision* means a go-ahead decision made under subsection 55(1A).

*divestment order* means an order under section 58.

*go-ahead decision* means a decision under subsection 55(1) or (1A).

*permanent restraining order* means an order under section 57.

*trigger proposal* has the meaning given by section 50.

#### **50 Meaning of *trigger proposal*—agreements relating to the directorate of Australian-registered insurance companies**

If:

- (a) either of the following subparagraphs applies:
  - (i) one or more persons propose to enter into an agreement in relation to an Australian-registered insurance company;
  - (ii) it is proposed to alter a constituent document of an Australian-registered insurance company; and

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- (b) under the proposed agreement or in consequence of the proposed alteration:
- (i) one or more directors of the Australian-registered insurance company will be accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of:
    - (A) a person whose associate-inclusive control interest in the company is 15% or more, being a person acting alone or together with one or more associates; or
    - (B) an associate of such a person; or
  - (ii) either:
    - (A) a person whose associate-inclusive control interest in the company is 15% or more, being a person acting alone or together with one or more associates; or
    - (B) an associate of such a person;
- will have the power to appoint or remove one or more directors of the Australian-registered insurance company;

the proposal is a trigger proposal for the purposes of this Part.

**51 When trigger proposal carried out**

For the purposes of this Part, if:

- (a) either of the following subparagraphs applies:
  - (i) one or more persons enter into an agreement in relation to an Australian-registered insurance company;
  - (ii) a constituent document of an Australian-registered insurance company is altered; and
- (b) the agreement or alteration has an effect mentioned in paragraph 50(b);

the following provisions have effect:

- (c) if subparagraph (a)(i) applies—each of the persons is taken to have carried out a trigger proposal;



- (d) if subparagraph (a)(ii) applies—the company is taken to have carried out a trigger proposal.

## **Division 2—Notification**

### **52 Compulsory notification of trigger proposal**

If:

- (a) a person or company carries out a trigger proposal; and
- (b) if subparagraph 51(a)(i) applies—the person did not, before entering into the agreement, give to the Minister a notice in accordance with section 17A stating the person’s intention to enter into the agreement; and
- (c) if subparagraph 51(a)(ii) applies—the company did not, before the alteration, give to the Minister a notice in accordance with section 17A stating the proposal to make the alteration; and
- (d) either:
  - (i) the person or company knew that the proposal concerned was a trigger proposal; or
  - (ii) the person or company had reasonable grounds to suspect that the proposal concerned was a trigger proposal but did not make all reasonable efforts to ascertain whether it was a trigger proposal;

the person or company commits an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

### **54 Trigger proposal must not be carried out before a go-ahead decision is given**

If:

- (a) a person or company carries out a trigger proposal; and

(b) the Minister did not give a go-ahead decision in relation to the proposal before the relevant agreement was entered into or the relevant alteration to the company's constituent document was made, as the case may be;

the person or company commits an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

## **Division 3—Go-ahead decisions**

### **55 Unconditional or conditional go-ahead decision**

- (1) The Minister may decide that the Minister has no objection to a trigger proposal, if the Minister is satisfied that the trigger proposal, if carried out, is not likely to be contrary to the public interest.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

- (1A) The Minister may decide that the Minister has no objection to a trigger proposal so long as the person or company concerned complies with specified conditions, if the Minister is satisfied that the trigger proposal, if carried out, is not likely to be contrary to the public interest if the person or company complies with those conditions.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

- (2) If the Minister makes a go-ahead decision, the person or company must be given written advice of the decision, and of the conditions (if any) applicable to the decision, before the end of 10 days after the day on which the decision is made.

- (3) If:

- (a) the person or company is given written advice of the go-ahead decision within the period of 10 days; and
- (b) the person or company carries out the proposal; and
- (c) the decision is a conditional go-ahead decision; and
- (d) the person or company does not comply with the conditions to which the decision is subject;

the person or company commits an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not

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greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a  
court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

- (4) If the Minister makes a go-ahead decision in relation to a trigger  
proposal, the Minister is not empowered to make a permanent  
restraining order in relation to the trigger proposal.

## **Division 4—Permanent restraining orders and divestment orders**

### **57 Permanent restraining order**

If the Minister is satisfied that the result of a trigger proposal would be contrary to the public interest, the Minister may, by notifiable instrument, make an order (in this Part called a ***permanent restraining order***) prohibiting the entering into of the proposed agreement or prohibiting the proposed alteration, as the case may be, to which the trigger proposal relates.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

### **58 Divestment order**

(1) If:

- (a) a person or company carries out a trigger proposal; and
- (b) the Minister is satisfied that the agreement or alteration is contrary to the public interest;

the Minister may, for remedial purposes, by notifiable instrument, make an order (in this Part called a ***divestment order***) directing specified persons to do within a specified period, or refrain from doing, specified acts or acts of a specified kind.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).

(2) Before the end of the period specified in a divestment order applicable to a person (including that period as extended under this subsection), the Minister may, by notifiable instrument, vary the order by extending or further extending that period.

(2A) Subsection (2) does not limit the application of subsection 33(3) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* in relation to a divestment order.

(3) If:

- (a) a person or company is given written advice of a go-ahead decision before the end of 10 days after the day on which the decision is made; and
- (b) the person or company carries out the proposal concerned; the Minister must not make a divestment order in relation to the proposal unless:
- (c) the person or company is convicted of a breach of condition offence in relation to the agreement or alteration; or
- (d) an order is made under section 19B of the *Crimes Act 1914* in relation to the person or company in respect of a breach of condition offence in relation to the agreement or alteration.

### **59 Offence of contravening permanent restraining order or divestment order**

A person who contravenes a permanent restraining order or divestment order commits an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

### **61 When orders come into operation**

- (1) A permanent restraining order comes into operation on the day specified in the order, which must not be before the order is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation under the *Legislation Act 2003*.
- (2) A divestment order comes into operation on the day specified in the order, which must be at least 30 days after the order is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation under the *Legislation Act 2003*.

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### **62 Revocation of orders**

- (1) The Minister may, at any time, by notifiable instrument, revoke a permanent restraining order or a divestment order.
- (2) The Minister must not revoke a permanent restraining order or divestment order if the Minister is satisfied that it would be contrary to the public interest to do so.

Note: See section 5 (about what is contrary to the public interest).



## **Part 5—Judicial enforcement of Ministerial orders**

### **63 Federal Court may enforce Ministerial orders**

- (1) If a person (in this section called the *offender*) has contravened an order made under Part 3 or 4, the Federal Court may make such order or orders as it thinks fit to achieve the purpose for which the order was made by the Minister.
- (2) The Federal Court's order:
  - (a) may only be made on the application of the Minister; and
  - (b) may be made whether or not the contravention by the offender continues; and
  - (c) may be made even if other proceedings in respect of that contravention have been or are to be instituted.
- (3) The Federal Court's orders include, but are not limited to:
  - (a) an order restraining the exercise of any rights attached to shares or assets held by the offender; or
  - (b) an order prohibiting or deferring the payment of any sums due to the offender in respect of shares or assets held by the offender; or
  - (c) an order directing the disposal of shares or assets held by the offender; or
  - (d) an order that any exercise of rights attached to shares or assets held by the offender be disregarded; or
  - (e) an order prohibiting a person from acting as a director of an Australian-registered insurance company or from being involved in the management of an Australian-registered insurance company; or
  - (f) an order directing an Australian-registered insurance company to make such alterations of any of its constituent documents as are specified in the order.

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- (4) In addition to the powers conferred on the Federal Court by the preceding provisions of this section, the Court:
  - (a) has power, for the purpose of securing compliance with any other order made under this section, to make an order directing any person to do or refrain from doing a specified act; and
  - (b) has power to make an order containing such ancillary or consequential provisions as the Court thinks just.
- (5) The Court may, before making an order under this section, direct that notice of the application be given to such persons as it thinks fit or be published in such manner as it thinks fit, or both.
- (6) The Court may, by order, rescind, vary or discharge an order made by it under this section or suspend the operation of such an order.
- (7) A reference in this section to an asset includes a reference to any or all of the interests, rights or benefits of an Australian-registered insurance company under a contract of insurance where the company is or was the insurer.

## Part 6—Anti-avoidance

### 64 Anti-avoidance

- (1) If:
- (a) one or more persons enter into, commence to carry out, or carry out a scheme; and
  - (b) it would be concluded that the person, or any of the persons, who entered into, commenced to carry out, or carried out the scheme or any part of the scheme did so for the sole or dominant purpose of avoiding the application of any provision of this Act in relation to any person or persons (whether or not a person or persons who entered into, commenced to carry out, or carried out the scheme or any part of the scheme); and
  - (c) the scheme or part of the scheme has achieved, or apart from this section, would achieve, that purpose;
- the Minister may make any order under a provision of Part 3 or 4 that the Minister would have been able to make if the scheme or the part of the scheme had not achieved that purpose.
- (2) This section applies to a scheme entered into after 6 June 1991.
- (3) This section does not authorise the making of an order prohibiting a person from doing anything that has already been done by the person before the order is made.
- (4) In this section:
- scheme* means:
- (a) any agreement, arrangement, understanding, promise or undertaking, whether express or implied and whether or not enforceable, or intended to be enforceable, by legal proceedings; and
  - (b) any scheme, plan, proposal, action, course of action or course of conduct, whether unilateral or otherwise.

## Part 8—Review of decisions

### 66 Reconsideration of reviewable decision

- (1) A person who is affected by a reviewable decision may, if dissatisfied with the decision, by notice given to the Minister within:
  - (a) the period of 21 days after the day on which the decision first comes to the notice of the person; or
  - (b) such further period as the Minister allows;request the Minister to reconsider the decision.
- (2) The reasons for making the request must be set out in the request.
- (3) Upon receipt of the request, the Minister must reconsider the decision and may, subject to subsection (4), confirm or revoke the decision or vary the decision in such manner as the Minister thinks fit.
- (4) If the Minister does not confirm, revoke or vary a decision before the end of the period of 21 days after the day on which the Minister received the request under subsection (1) to reconsider the decision, the Minister is taken, at the end of that period, to have confirmed the decision under subsection (3).
- (5) If the Minister confirms, revokes or varies a decision before the end of the period referred to in subsection (4), the Minister must, by notice served on the applicant, inform the applicant of the result of the reconsideration of the decision and the reasons for confirming, revoking or varying the decision, as the case may be.

### 67 Review of decisions by Administrative Appeals Tribunal

- (1) Applications may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of decisions of the Minister that have been confirmed or varied under subsection 66(3).

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- (2) If, because of the operation of subsection 66(4), a decision is taken to be confirmed, section 29 of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* applies as if the prescribed time for making application for review of the decision were the period commencing on the day on which the decision is taken to have been confirmed and ending on the 28th day after that day.
- (3) If a request is made under subsection 66(1) in respect of a reviewable decision, section 41 of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* applies as if the making of the request were the making of an application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review of that decision.
- (5) A non-presidential member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal must not sit as a member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for the purposes of a review of a reviewable decision, or for the purposes of a request under subsection 41(2) of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* in respect of such a decision, if he or she is a director or employee of a company or body carrying on (whether in Australia or elsewhere) life insurance business or insurance business.
- (6) An order must not be made under subsection 41(2) of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* in respect of a reviewable decision except by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.
- (7) The hearing of a proceeding relating to a reviewable decision must take place in private and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal may, by order:
  - (a) give directions as to the persons who may be present; and
  - (b) give directions of a kind referred to in subsection 35(3) or (4) of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*.

**68 Statements to accompany notification of decisions**

- (1) If written notice is given to a person affected by a reviewable decision that the reviewable decision has been made, that notice must include a statement to the effect that:

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- (a) the person may, if dissatisfied with the decision, seek a reconsideration of the decision by the Minister in accordance with subsection 66(1); and
  - (b) the person may, subject to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*, if dissatisfied with a decision made by the Minister upon that reconsideration confirming or varying the first-mentioned decision, make application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of the decision so confirmed or varied.
- (2) If the Minister confirms or varies a reviewable decision under subsection 66(3) and gives to the person written notice of the confirmation or variation of the decision, that notice must include a statement to the effect that the person may, subject to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*, if dissatisfied with the decision so confirmed or varied, make application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of the decision.
- (3) A failure to comply with this section does not affect the validity of a decision.

## **Part 9—Miscellaneous**

### **69 Delegation**

The Minister may, by signed instrument, delegate any or all of the Minister's powers under this Act (other than subsection 5(2) or (6)) to:

- (a) APRA; or
- (aa) an APRA member, within the meaning of the *Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Act 1998*, or
- (b) an APRA staff member, within the meaning of the *Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Act 1998*.

### **70 Concurrent operation of State/Territory laws**

It is the intention of the Parliament that this Act is not to apply to the exclusion of a law of a State or Territory to the extent that that law is capable of operating concurrently with this Act.

### **71 Validity of acts done in contravention of this Act**

An act is not invalidated by the fact that it constitutes an offence against this Act.

### **72 Minister's consent for criminal proceedings**

Proceedings for an offence against, or arising out of, this Act must not be instituted without the written consent of the Minister.

### **73 Minister may obtain information and documents**

- (1) If the Minister has reason to believe that a person is capable of giving information or producing documents about matters that are relevant to the exercise by the Minister of his or her powers under this Act, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on that person, require that person:

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- (a) to give any such information to the Minister within the period and in the manner specified in the notice; or
  - (b) to produce any such documents to the Minister within the period and in the manner specified in the notice; or
  - (c) to make copies of any such documents and to produce those copies to the Minister within the period and in the manner specified in the notice.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) must set out the effects of subsections (5) and (9) of this section and sections 137.1 and 137.2 of the *Criminal Code*.
- (3) The regulations may prescribe scales of expenses to be allowed to persons required to give information or produce documents under this section.
- (4) A person is entitled to be paid by the Commonwealth reasonable compensation for complying with a requirement covered by paragraph (1)(c).
- (5) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with a notice under subsection (1).

Penalty: Imprisonment for 6 months.

Note: Subsection 4B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose an appropriate fine instead of, or in addition to, a term of imprisonment. If a body corporate is convicted of an offence, subsection 4B(3) of that Act allows a court to impose a fine of an amount that is not greater than 5 times the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court on an individual convicted of the same offence.

- (9) A person is not excused from giving information or producing a document or a copy of a document under this section on the ground that the information or the production of the document or copy might tend to incriminate the person, but:
- (a) giving the information or producing the document or copy; or



- (b) any information, document or thing obtained as a direct or indirect consequence of giving the information or producing the document or copy;  
is not admissible in evidence against the person in any criminal proceedings other than a prosecution for an offence against this section or an offence against section 137.1 or 137.2 of the *Criminal Code* that relates to this section.
- (10) The Minister may inspect a document or copy produced under this section and may make and retain copies of, or take and retain extracts from, such a document or copy.
- (11) The Minister may retain a copy of a document produced in accordance with a requirement covered by paragraph (1)(c).
- (12) The Minister may, for the purposes of this Act, take, and retain for as long as is necessary for those purposes, a document produced under this section.
- (13) The person otherwise entitled to possession of the document is entitled to be supplied, as soon as practicable, with a copy certified by the Minister to be a true copy.
- (14) The certified copy must be received in all courts and tribunals as evidence as if it were the original.
- (15) Until a certified copy is supplied, the Minister must, at such times and places as the Minister thinks appropriate, permit the person otherwise entitled to possession of the document, or a person authorised by that person, to inspect and make copies of, or take extracts from, the document.

## **75 APRA Act secrecy provisions apply**

Section 56 of the *Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Act 1998* prohibits certain disclosures of information received under this Act.

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**76 Conduct by directors, employees and agents**

- (1) If, in proceedings for an offence against this Act, it is necessary to establish the state of mind of a company in relation to particular conduct, it is sufficient to show:
  - (a) that the conduct was engaged in by a director, employee or agent of the company within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and
  - (b) that the director, employee or agent had the state of mind.
- (2) Any conduct engaged in on behalf of a company by a director, employee or agent of the company within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority is taken, for the purposes of a prosecution for an offence against this Act, to have been engaged in also by the company unless the company establishes that the company took reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the conduct.
- (3) If, in proceedings for an offence against this Act, it is necessary to establish the state of mind of a person other than a company in relation to particular conduct, it is sufficient to show that:
  - (a) the conduct was engaged in by an employee or agent of the person within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and
  - (b) the employee or agent had the state of mind.
- (4) Any conduct engaged in on behalf of a person other than a company (in this subsection called the **employer**) by an employee or agent of the employer within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority is taken, for the purposes of a prosecution for an offence against this Act, to have been engaged in also by the employer unless the employer establishes that he or she took reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the conduct.
- (5) If:
  - (a) a person other than a company is convicted of an offence; and

- (b) the person would not have been convicted of the offence if subsections (3) and (4) had not been enacted;  
the person is not liable to be punished by imprisonment for that offence.
- (6) A reference in subsection (1) or (3) to the state of mind of a person includes a reference to:
- (a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and
  - (b) the person's reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.
- (7) A reference in this section to a director of a company includes a reference to a constituent member of a company incorporated for a public purpose by a law of the Commonwealth, of a State or of a Territory.
- (8) A reference in this section to engaging in conduct includes a reference to failing or refusing to engage in conduct.
- (9) A reference in this section to an offence against this Act includes a reference to an offence arising out of this Act.
- (10) Part 2.5 of the *Criminal Code* does not apply in relation to an offence against this Act.

### **77 Company's financial statements to be prima facie evidence of value of its assets**

- (1) This section applies if:
- (a) a company authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business, or a company registered under section 21 of the *Life Insurance Act 1995*, had, under the *Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act 2001*, given to APRA copies of financial statements for, or as at the end of, a particular accounting period; and
  - (b) an amount is shown in those statements as the value of an asset of the company as at the end of the accounting period.

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- (2) For the purposes of this Act, the financial statements are prima facie evidence of the value of the asset as at the end of the accounting period.
- (3) APRA may certify that a document is a copy of the financial statements.
- (4) This section applies to the certified copy as if it were the original.

### **78 Company's financial statements to be prima facie evidence of total net liabilities in respect of its contracts of life insurance**

- (1) This section applies if:
  - (a) a company registered under section 21 of the *Life Insurance Act 1995* had, under the *Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act 2001*, given to APRA copies of financial statements for, or as at the end of, a particular accounting period; and
  - (b) an amount is shown in those statements as the total net liabilities in respect of all of the company's contracts of life insurance as at the end of the accounting period.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, the financial statements are prima facie evidence of the total net liabilities in respect of all of the company's contracts of life insurance as at the end of the accounting period.
- (3) APRA may certify that a document is a copy of the financial statements.
- (4) This section applies to the certified copy as if it were the original.

### **79 Company's financial statements to be prima facie evidence of its unearned premiums provision and its outstanding claims provision**

- (1) This section applies if:

- (a) a company authorised under the *Insurance Act 1973* to carry on insurance business had, under the *Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act 2001*, given to APRA copies of financial statements for, or as at the end of, a particular accounting period; and
  - (b) either:
    - (i) an amount is shown in those statements as the company's unearned premiums provision as at the end of the accounting period; or
    - (ii) an amount is shown in those statements as the company's outstanding claims provision as at the end of the accounting period.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, the financial statements are prima facie evidence of:
- (a) if subparagraph (1)(b)(i) applies—the company's unearned premiums provision as at the end of the accounting period; or
  - (b) if subparagraph (1)(b)(ii) applies—the company's outstanding claims provision as at the end of the accounting period.
- (3) APRA may certify that a document is a copy of the financial statements.
- (4) This section applies to the certified copy as if it were the original.

### **80 *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975* and this Act to operate independently of each other**

- (1) This Act and the *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975* operate independently of each other.
- (2) In particular, a decision under either Act that the Commonwealth or a Minister has no objection to a proposal has effect only for the purposes of the Act concerned.

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**81 Transitional—pre-commencement acquisitions etc.**

- (1) This section has effect subject to Part 6 (which deals with anti-avoidance).
- (3) Part 3 does not apply in relation to:
  - (a) an acquisition of assets that occurred before the commencement of this Act; or
  - (b) an acquisition of interests, rights or benefits of an Australian-registered insurance company under a contract of insurance where the company is the insurer, being an acquisition that occurred before the commencement of this Act; or
  - (c) an arrangement relating to the leasing or letting on hire of, or the granting of other rights to use, assets of an Australian-registered insurance company that was entered into before the commencement of this Act.
- (4) Part 4 does not apply in relation to:
  - (a) an agreement in relation to an Australian-registered insurance company that was entered into before the commencement of this Act; or
  - (b) an alteration of a constituent document of an Australian-registered insurance company that occurred before the commencement of this Act.

**82 Regulations**

- (1) The Governor-General may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters:
  - (a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or
  - (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the regulations may exempt specified proposals, acquisitions, arrangements or transactions from the operation of any or all of the provisions of Parts 3 and 4.

## Endnotes

### Endnote 1—About the endnotes

The endnotes provide information about this compilation and the compiled law.

The following endnotes are included in every compilation:

Endnote 1—About the endnotes

Endnote 2—Abbreviation key

Endnote 3—Legislation history

Endnote 4—Amendment history

### Abbreviation key—Endnote 2

The abbreviation key sets out abbreviations that may be used in the endnotes.

### Legislation history and amendment history—Endnotes 3 and 4

Amending laws are annotated in the legislation history and amendment history.

The legislation history in endnote 3 provides information about each law that has amended (or will amend) the compiled law. The information includes commencement details for amending laws and details of any application, saving or transitional provisions that are not included in this compilation.

The amendment history in endnote 4 provides information about amendments at the provision (generally section or equivalent) level. It also includes information about any provision of the compiled law that has been repealed in accordance with a provision of the law.

### Editorial changes

The *Legislation Act 2003* authorises First Parliamentary Counsel to make editorial and presentational changes to a compiled law in preparing a compilation of the law for registration. The changes must not change the effect of the law. Editorial changes take effect from the compilation registration date.

If the compilation includes editorial changes, the endnotes include a brief outline of the changes in general terms. Full details of any changes can be obtained from the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

### Misdescribed amendments

A misdescribed amendment is an amendment that does not accurately describe how an amendment is to be made. If, despite the misdescription, the amendment

## Endnotes

### Endnote 1—About the endnotes

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can be given effect as intended, then the misdescribed amendment can be incorporated through an editorial change made under section 15V of the *Legislation Act 2003*.

If a misdescribed amendment cannot be given effect as intended, the amendment is not incorporated and “(md not incorp)” is added to the amendment history.



**Endnote 2—Abbreviation key**

ad = added or inserted	o = order(s)
am = amended	Ord = Ordinance
amdt = amendment	orig = original
c = clause(s)	par = paragraph(s)/subparagraph(s) /sub-subparagraph(s)
C[x] = Compilation No. x	pres = present
Ch = Chapter(s)	prev = previous
def = definition(s)	(prev...) = previously
Dict = Dictionary	Pt = Part(s)
disallowed = disallowed by Parliament	r = regulation(s)/rule(s)
Div = Division(s)	reloc = relocated
ed = editorial change	renum = renumbered
exp = expires/expired or ceases/ceased to have effect	rep = repealed
F = Federal Register of Legislation	rs = repealed and substituted
gaz = gazette	s = section(s)/subsection(s)
LA = <i>Legislation Act 2003</i>	Sch = Schedule(s)
LIA = <i>Legislative Instruments Act 2003</i>	Sdiv = Subdivision(s)
(md) = misdescribed amendment can be given effect	SLI = Select Legislative Instrument
(md not incorp) = misdescribed amendment cannot be given effect	SR = Statutory Rules
mod = modified/modification	Sub-Ch = Sub-Chapter(s)
No. = Number(s)	SubPt = Subpart(s)
	<u>underlining</u> = whole or part not commenced or to be commenced

## Endnotes

### Endnote 3—Legislation history

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### Endnote 3—Legislation history

Act	Number and year	Assent	Commencement	Application, saving and transitional provisions
Insurance Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1991	6, 1992	6 Jan 1992	15 Mar 1992 (s 2(1) and gaz 1992, No S72)	
Life Insurance (Consequential Amendments and Repeals) Act 1995	5, 1995	23 Feb 1995	Sch (items 22–35, Note about section headings): 1 July 1995 (s 2)	—
Financial Laws Amendment Act 1997	107, 1997	30 June 1997	Sch 6: 30 June 1997 (s 2(1))	—
Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act 1998	54, 1998	29 June 1998	Sch 8: 1 July 1998 (s 2(2)(f))	—
Criminal Code Amendment (Theft, Fraud, Bribery and Related Offences) Act 2000	137, 2000	24 Nov 2000	Sch 2 (items 250–253, 418, 419): 24 May 2001 (s 2(3))	Sch 2 (items 418, 419)
Treasury Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) Act (No. 1) 2001	31, 2001	28 Apr 2001	Sch 1 (item 29): 15 Dec 2001 (s 2(4))	—
General Insurance Reform Act 2001	119, 2001	19 Sept 2001	Sch 3 (items 13, 14): 1 July 2002 (s 2(2))	—
Financial Sector (Collection of Data—Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2001	121, 2001	24 Sept 2001	Sch 2 (items 158–160): 1 July 2002 (s 2(2))	Sch 2 (item 160)

## Endnote 3—Legislation history

<b>Act</b>	<b>Number and year</b>	<b>Assent</b>	<b>Commencement</b>	<b>Application, saving and transitional provisions</b>
Financial Sector Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2002	37, 2002	26 June 2002	Sch 5: 27 June 2002 (s 2(1) item 5)	—
Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Amendment Act 2003	42, 2003	24 June 2003	Sch 2 (item 11) and Sch 3: 1 July 2003 (s 2(1) item 2)	Sch 3
Administrative Appeals Tribunal Amendment Act 2005	38, 2005	1 Apr 2005	Sch 1 (item 218): 16 May 2005 (s 2(1) item 6)	—
Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Simplifying Regulation and Review) Act 2007	154, 2007	24 Sept 2007	Sch 4 (items 41, 42): 24 Sept 2007 (s 2(1) item 7)	—
Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—General Law Reform) Act 2008	144, 2008	9 Dec 2008	Sch 14 (items 112–119): 10 Dec 2008 (s 2(1) item 36)	Sch 14 (item 119)
Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Enhancing Supervision and Enforcement) Act 2009	75, 2009	27 Aug 2009	Sch 1 (items 209–214): 27 Feb 2010 (s 2(1) item 2)	—
Statute Law Revision Act 2012	136, 2012	22 Sept 2012	Sch 6 (items 40, 41): 22 Sept 2012 (s 2(1) item 37)	—
Statute Law Revision Act (No. 1) 2015	5, 2015	25 Feb 2015	Sch 1 (items 20, 21) and Sch 3 (items 102–106): 25 Mar 2015 (s 2(1) items 2, 10)	—

## Endnotes

### Endnote 3—Legislation history

<b>Act</b>	<b>Number and year</b>	<b>Assent</b>	<b>Commencement</b>	<b>Application, saving and transitional provisions</b>
Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act 2015	59, 2015	26 May 2015	Sch 2 (item 228): 1 July 2016 (s 2(1) item 5) Sch 2 (items 356–396): 18 June 2015 (s 2(1) item 6)	Sch 2 (items 356–396)
<b>as amended by</b>				
Territories Legislation Amendment Act 2016	33, 2016	23 Mar 2016	Sch 2: 24 Mar 2016 (s 2(1) item 2)	—
Tribunals Amalgamation Act 2015	60, 2015	26 May 2015	Sch 8 (items 31, 32) and Sch 9: 1 July 2015 (s 2(1) items 19, 22)	Sch 9
Statute Law Revision Act (No. 1) 2016	4, 2016	11 Feb 2016	Sch 4 (items 1, 191–195): 10 Mar 2016 (s 2(1) item 6)	—
Treasury Laws Amendment (Mutual Reforms) Act 2019	37, 2019	5 Apr 2019	Sch 2 (item 23): 6 Apr 2019 (s 2(1) item 1)	—
Treasury Laws Amendment (2019 Measures No. 3) Act 2020	64, 2020	22 June 2020	Sch 3 (items 240–252, 325, 326): 1 Oct 2020 (s 2(1) item 6)	Sch 3 (items 325, 326)
Treasury Laws Amendment (2023 Law Improvement Package No. 1) Act 2023	76, 2023	20 Sept 2023	Sch 4 (items 1–25, 105–111): 1 Mar 2024 (s 2(1) item 15)	Sch 4 (items 20, 23, 25, 110)

## Endnote 4—Amendment history

## Endnote 4—Amendment history

Provision affected	How affected
Title.....	am No 54, 1998
<b>Part 1</b>	
s 3.....	am No 54, 1998; No 37, 2002; No 76, 2023
s 4.....	am No 5, 1995; No 54, 1998; Nos 119 and 121, 2001; No 37, 2002; No 144, 2008; No 75, 2009
s 5.....	am No 76, 2023
s 13.....	am No 37, 2019
s 17A.....	ad No 76, 2023
s 18.....	am No 59, 2015
s 19.....	am No 54, 1998
Part 2.....	rep No 54, 1998
s 20–23.....	rep No 54, 1998
s 24.....	am No 107, 1997 rep No 54, 1998
s 25.....	rep No 54, 1998
s 26.....	am No 107, 1997 rep No 54, 1998
s 27.....	am No 107, 1997 rep No 54, 1998
s 28–30.....	rep No 54, 1998
s 31.....	am No 107, 1997 rep No 54, 1998
s 32–34.....	rep No 54, 1998
<b>Part 3</b>	
<b>Division 1</b>	
s 35.....	am No 37, 2002; No 76, 2023
s 36.....	am No 5, 1995; No 75, 2009

## Endnotes

### Endnote 4—Amendment history

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<b>Provision affected</b>	<b>How affected</b>
<b>Division 2</b>	
Division 2 heading.....	rs No 37, 2002
s 38.....	am No 107, 1997; No 4, 2016; No 76, 2023
s 39.....	rep No 37, 2002
s 40.....	am No 107, 1997 rs No 37, 2002
<b>Division 3</b>	
s 41.....	am No 107, 1997; No 37, 2002; No 4, 2016; No 76, 2023
<b>Division 4</b>	
Division 4 heading.....	rs No 37, 2002
s 42.....	rep No 37, 2002
s 43.....	am No 64, 2020; No 76, 2023
s 44.....	am No 64, 2020; No 76, 2023
s 45.....	am No 107, 1997; No 37, 2002; No 4, 2016
s 46.....	am No 37, 2002 rep No 64, 2020
s 47.....	am No 37, 2002; No 5, 2015 rs No 64, 2020
s 48.....	am No 37, 2002; No 64, 2020; No 76, 2023
<b>Part 4</b>	
<b>Division 1</b>	
s 49.....	am No 37, 2002; No 76, 2023
<b>Division 2</b>	
Division 2 heading.....	rs No 37, 2002
s 52.....	am No 107, 1997; No 4, 2016; No 76, 2023
s 53.....	rep No 37, 2002
s 54.....	am No 107, 1997 rs No 37, 2002
<b>Division 3</b>	
s 55.....	am No 107, 1997; No 37, 2002; No 4, 2016; No 76, 2023

## Endnote 4—Amendment history

<b>Provision affected</b>	<b>How affected</b>
<b>Division 4</b>	
Division 4 heading.....	rs No 37, 2002
s 56.....	rep No 37, 2002
s 57.....	am No 64, 2020; No 76, 2023
s 58.....	am No 64, 2020; No 76, 2023
s 59.....	am No 107, 1997; No 37, 2002; No 4, 2016
s 60.....	am No 37, 2002 rep No 64, 2020
s 61.....	am No 37, 2002; No 5, 2015; No 64, 2020
s 62.....	am No 37, 2002; No 64, 2020; No 76, 2023
<b>Part 5</b>	
s 63.....	am No 54, 1998
<b>Part 6</b>	
s 64.....	am No 54, 1998
Part 7.....	rep No 76, 2023
s 65.....	am No 54, 1998; No 154, 2007 rep No 76, 2023
<b>Part 8</b>	
s 67.....	am No 38, 2005; No 60, 2015
<b>Part 9</b>	
s 69.....	am No 54, 1998; No 42, 2003; No 76, 2023
s 73.....	am No 107, 1997; No 137, 2000; No 76, 2023
s 74.....	am No 54, 1998 rep No 137, 2000
s 75.....	am No 5, 1995 rs No 107, 1997; No 54, 1998
s 76.....	am No 31, 2001; No 5, 2015
s 77.....	am No 5, 1995; No 54, 1998 rs No 121, 2001 am No 75, 2009
s 78.....	am No 5, 1995; No 54, 1998

## Endnotes

### Endnote 4—Amendment history

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<b>Provision affected</b>	<b>How affected</b>
	rs No 121, 2001
	am No 75, 2009
s 79.....	am No 54, 1998
	rs No 121, 2001
s 80.....	am No 76, 2023
s 81.....	am No 54, 1998
s 82.....	am No 54, 1998
Part 10.....	rep No 136, 2012
s 83.....	rep No 136, 2012
Schedule.....	rep No 136, 2012

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