

House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by the Cabinet Office, are published separately as Bill 7—EN.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Pat McFadden has made the following statement under section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998:

In my view the provisions of the House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill are compatible with the Convention rights.

House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Remove the remaining connection between hereditary peerage and membership of the House of Lords; to abolish the jurisdiction of the House of Lords in relation to claims to hereditary peerages; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Exclusion of remaining hereditary peers

Omit section 2 of the House of Lords Act 1999 (exception to exclusion of hereditary peers from membership of House of Lords).

2 Claims to hereditary peerages

- (1) The jurisdiction of the House of Lords in relation to claims to hereditary peerages is abolished. 5
- (2) For the purposes of this section a claim to a hereditary peerage includes a claim to a hereditary peerage in abeyance.

3 Consequential amendments

- (1) In the Peerage Act 1963— 10
 - (a) in section 1(2) (disclaimer of certain hereditary peerages), omit the words from “; and no such instrument” to the end;
 - (b) omit section 4 (Scottish peerages) and the italic heading before it;
 - (c) omit section 6 (peeresses in own right).
- (2) In the House of Lords Act 1999— 15
 - (a) omit section 3(2) (disqualifications in relation to House of Commons applicable to hereditary peers);
 - (b) omit paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 (amendment of Peerage Act 1963).
- (3) In the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, in section 42 (tax status of members of House of Lords: transitional provision)— 20
 - (a) omit subsections (3) and (4);
 - (b) in subsection (5), omit “If M is not such a person,”;

- (c) in subsection (8)—
 - (i) omit “or M succeeds to a peerage”;
 - (ii) omit the words from “If subsection (3)(a)” to the end;
 - (d) omit subsection (9).
- (4) In the House of Lords Reform Act 2014, in section 4 (effect of ceasing to be a member)—
- (a) in subsection (3), omit “, by virtue of a hereditary peerage”;
 - (b) omit subsection (4);
 - (c) in subsection (5), omit “other than a hereditary peer”;
 - (d) omit subsection (7).

4 Extent and commencement

- (1) An amendment or repeal made by section 1 or 3 has the same extent as the provision amended or repealed.
- (2) Section 2, this section and section 5 extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (3) This Act comes into force at the end of the Session of Parliament in which this Act is passed.
- (4) Accordingly, any writ of summons issued for the present Parliament in right of a hereditary peerage is of no effect after that Session.

5 Short title

This Act may be cited as the House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Act 2024.

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*Presented by Pat McFadden
supported by the Prime Minister,
Secretary Angela Rayner, Nick Thomas-Symonds
and Ellie Reeves.*

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be
Printed, 5th September 2024.

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