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TO

Make provision for husbands and civil partners of those receiving honours to be allowed to use equivalent honorary titles to those available to women; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen'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 Entitlement of husband of women holding certain titles to the title “The Honourable”

Any man who is, or who has been at any time (before or after the passing of this Act) the husband of any woman who holds a title as a peer, baronetess or dame shall be entitled to use the courtesy title “The Honourable.”

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2 Entitlement of civil partner of man or woman holding certain titles to the title “The Honourable”

Any person who is, or who has been at any time (before or after the passing of this Act) the civil partner of any man or woman who holds a title as a peer, baronet, baronetess, knight or dame shall be entitled to use the courtesy title “The Honourable”.

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3 Interpretation

(1) In this Act—

- (a) references to a peer, baronet, baronetess, knight or dame are references to peerages and other titles conferred within the United Kingdom or of any of its constituent parts or a title within the peerage of Ireland;
- (b) “husband” and “civil partner” refer to husbands or civil partners recognised under the law of any part of the United Kingdom.

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(2) The entitlement conferred by this Act to use the title “The Honourable” is without prejudice to any existing custom or practice relating to the use of the title “The Honourable”.

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4 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Honours (Equality of Titles for Partners) Bill 2012.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the expiry of two months beginning on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Honours (Equality of Titles for Partners) Bill

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*Ordered to be brought in by Oliver Colville,
Mrs Eleanor Laing, Sheryll Murray,
Dan Byles, Mr Marcus Jones,
Mr Lee Scott, Jack Lopresti,
Ian Paisley, Caroline Dinénage,
Keith Vaz, Sarah Newton
and Stephen Gilbert.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 3 July 2012.*

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