

Representation of the People (Members' Job Share) Bill

CONTENTS

- 1 Sharing arrangements
- 2 Death or disqualification of Members serving pursuant to a sharing arrangement
- 3 Short title, commencement and extent

A
B I L L

TO

Enable representation of a constituency by two persons sharing membership of the House of Commons; 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 Sharing arrangements

- (1) In subsection (1) of section 1 of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (“the 1986 Act”), for the words “each returning a single member” substitute “each returning a member”.
- (2) After subsection (2) of that section insert— 5
- “(3) The reference in subsection (1) to a member is to—
- (a) a single member, or
- (b) two persons serving as members pursuant to a sharing arrangement,
- and a reference in any enactment to a member of Parliament is to be read accordingly. 10
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(b), a sharing arrangement is an arrangement under which two individuals— 15
- (a) present themselves jointly for election to Parliament on the basis that if elected, they will share the representation of the constituency between them, and
- (b) if elected, serve in Parliament on that basis.”
- (3) So far as it is possible to do so, any enactment relating to Parliamentary elections, proceedings in Parliament, or the functions and privileges of Members of Parliament is to be read and given effect so as to be compatible with a sharing arrangement (within the meaning of the provisions inserted by subsection (2)). 20
- (4) The Speaker of the House of Commons may make a written request to the Government to make such provision, described in the request, as the Speaker

considers appropriate to give further effect to sharing arrangements (within the meaning of the provisions inserted by subsection (2)).

- (5) As soon as practicable following receipt of a request under subsection (4), the Government shall lay before the House of Commons a draft of an Order in Council containing such provisions as the Government considers appropriate to give effect to the request. 5
- (6) An Order in Council under this section may include provision amending, or applying with modifications, an enactment of a kind mentioned in subsection (3).
- (7) No recommendation is to be made to Her Majesty in Council to make an Order in Council under this section unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the Order in Council has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the House of Commons. 10
- (8) Subject to any contrary provision contained in standing orders of the House of Commons for the time being in force, in any vote in that House – 15
- (a) each of the two members for a constituency pursuant to a sharing arrangement may cast a half-vote, but
 - (b) where they so agree, and have informed the person presiding during the vote of that agreement, one of them may cast a single vote on behalf of both. 20

2 Death or disqualification of Members serving pursuant to a sharing arrangement

If either Member in a sharing arrangement dies or becomes disqualified from membership of the House of Commons, both shall be treated as having ceased to be Members. 25

3 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Representation of the People (Members' Job Share) Act 2012.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of one month beginning with the day on which it is passed. 30
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Representation of the People (Members' Job Share) Bill

A

B I L L

To enable representation of a constituency by two persons sharing membership of the House of Commons; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by John McDonnell,
Dame Anne Begg, Robert Halfon,
Lorely Burt, Caroline Lucas,
Sheila Gilmore, Mr Virendra Sharma,
Meg Hillier, Jeremy Corbyn,
Jon Cruddas, Mr Frank Field
and Mr Tom Clarke.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 20 November 2012.*

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2012

*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at
www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright.*

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx

Bill 91

(xxxxxx)

55/2

xxxbarxxx