

A

B I L L

TO

Amend the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 to allow the Office for Budget Responsibility to scrutinise and certificate the policy costings of political parties represented in the House of Commons.

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 Amendment of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011

(1) The Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 is amended as follows—

(a) in section 4, after subsection (4) insert—

“(4A) The Office must also, within the period of six months before a General Election— 5

(a) provide independent scrutiny and certification of the policy costings of a political party making a request under section 5(4) of this Act, and

(b) publish details of the independent scrutiny and certification of policy costings conducted under paragraph (a) on the Office website, and place a copy in the Library of the House of Commons.” 10

(b) in section 5(3), for paragraph (b) substitute—

“(b) subject to subsection (4) below, may not consider what the effect of any alternative policies would be.” 15

(c) in section 5, after subsection (3) insert—

“(4) The Office must—

(a) provide independent scrutiny and certification of the policy certification of the policy costings of any political party represented in the House of Commons at the request of that political party, subject to receiving sufficient information from that political party, and 20

(b) state whether it agrees or disagrees with the policy costings of the political party making a request in 25

subsection (3)(a), or whether it has been given insufficient time or information to reach a judgement.”

2 Financial provisions

That, for the purposes of any Act resulting from the Office for Budget Responsibility (Political Party Costings) Bill, it is expedient to authorise the payment out of money provided by Parliament of any expenditure incurred by the Treasury in consequence of the Act.

5

3 Short title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Office for Budget Responsibility (Political Party Policy Costings) Act 2015.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.

10

Office for Budget Responsibility (Political Party Policy Costings) Bill

A

B I L L

To amend the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 to allow the Office for Budget Responsibility to scrutinise and certificate the policy costings of political parties represented in the House of Commons.

Presented by Thomas Docherty.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 7 July 2014.*

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2015

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 34

(xxxxxx)

55/4

xxxbarxxx