

Carers Bedroom Entitlement (Social Housing Sector) Bill

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Provide that people in receipt of Universal Credit and Housing Benefit and accommodated in the social housing sector be entitled to an additional bedroom related to caring responsibilities or overnight care; 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 Provision for rooms for carers and those requiring overnight care in Universal Credit

- (1) In Section 11 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Housing Costs), after subsection (3), insert—

“(3A) In relation to a dwelling of which the landlord is a local housing authority or a registered provider of social housing, regulations under this section shall not permit the housing cost element of the universal credit to be less than the actual amount of the liability in a case where a household has no more than one spare bedroom, and where a person, whom the relevant authority is satisfied occupies the claimant’s dwelling as their home—

(a) is entitled to carer’s allowance; or

(b) requires overnight care.”

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2 Provision for rooms for carers and those requiring overnight care in Housing Benefit

In Section 69 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Housing Benefit), after subsection (3) insert—

“(3A) After subsection (6) insert—

- (7) In relation to a dwelling of which the landlord is a local housing authority or a registered provider of social housing, regulations under this section shall not permit the appropriate maximum housing benefit (AMHB) to be less than the actual amount of the
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liability in a case where a household has no more than one spare bedroom, and where a person, whom the relevant authority is satisfied occupies the claimant's dwelling as their home—

- (a) is entitled to carer's allowance; or
- (b) requires overnight care."

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3 Interpretation

- (1) In any instance where these provisions apply to Scotland or Wales, for "registered provider of social housing" substitute "registered social landlord".
- (2) For the purposes of this Act "relevant authority" means an authority administering Housing Benefit or the housing costs element of Universal Credit.

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4 Financial provisions

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of money so provided by virtue of any other Act.

5 Short title, commencement and extent

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- (1) This Act may be cited as the Carers Bedroom Entitlement (Social Housing Sector) Act 2015.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 2 months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales and Scotland.

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To provide that people in receipt of Universal Credit and Housing Benefit and accommodated in the social housing sector be entitled to an additional bedroom related to caring responsibilities or overnight care; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Barbara Keeley,
Alex Cunningham, Dr Hywel Francis,
Mrs Sharon Hodgson, Diana Johnson,
Mr Virendra Sharma, Jim Shannon,
Andrew George, Hywel Williams,
Caroline Lucas, Laura Sandys and
Andrew Gwynne.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 14 October 2014.*

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