

Lords Spiritual (Women) Bill

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by the Cabinet Office, are published separately as Bill 143 – EN.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Deputy Prime Minister has made the following statement under section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998:

In my view the provisions of the Lords Spiritual (Women) Bill are compatible with the Convention rights.

Lords Spiritual (Women) Bill

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B I L L

TO

Make time-limited provision for vacancies among the Lords Spiritual to be filled by bishops who are women.

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 Vacancies among the Lords Spiritual

- (1) This section applies where—
- (a) a vacancy arises among the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords in the 10 years beginning with the day on which this Act comes into force,
 - (b) at the time the vacancy arises there is at least one eligible bishop who is a woman, and 5
 - (c) the person who would otherwise be entitled to fill the vacancy under section 5 of the Bishops Act 1878 is a man.
- (2) If at the time the vacancy arises there is only one eligible bishop who is a woman, the vacancy is to be filled by the issue of writs of summons to her. 10
- (3) If at the time the vacancy arises there are two or more eligible bishops who are women, the vacancy is to be filled by the issue of writs of summons to the one whose election as a bishop of a diocese in England was confirmed first.
- (4) In this section “eligible bishop” means a bishop of a diocese in England who is not yet entitled in that capacity to the issue of writs of summons. 15
- (5) The reference in subsection (1) to a vacancy does not include a vacancy arising by the avoidance of the see of Canterbury, York, London, Durham or Winchester.

2 Commencement, extent and short title

- (1) This Act comes into force on the day Parliament first meets following the first parliamentary general election after this Act is passed. 20
- (2) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

(3) This Act may be cited as the Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015.

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To make time-limited provision for vacancies among the Lords Spiritual to be filled by bishops who are women.

*Presented by the Deputy Prime Minister
supported by
the Prime Minister,
Secretary Nicky Morgan, Mr Oliver Letwin,
Greg Clark, Mr Sam Gyimah, Jo Swinson,
and Tom Brake.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 18 December 2014.*

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Bill 143

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