

Prime Minister (Temporary Appointment) Bill

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TO

Make provision for appointment of a Prime Minister in the event that a Prime Minister is temporarily or permanently incapacitated.

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 Temporary appointment of the Prime Minister

- (1) The office of Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury shall, in the event of the temporary or permanent incapacitation of the person holding such office, be conferred upon another Secretary or Minister of State in accordance with the order of succession defined in Schedule 1 of this Act. 5
- (2) Where the next Secretary or Minister of State in the order of succession defined in Schedule 1 is temporarily or permanently incapacitated, the office shall be conferred upon the first Secretary or Minister of State not so incapacitated, in accordance with the order of succession defined in Schedule 1.
- (3) Any salary payable to the Prime Minister under the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 shall instead be payable to the Secretary or Minister of State assuming the office of Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, in accordance with the provisions of that Act. 10
- (4) Any functions or responsibilities of the Prime Minister, whether statutory or otherwise, shall be transferred to the Secretary or Minister of State assuming the office of Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury. 15
- (5) A Secretary or Minister of State may not assume the office of Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury if they are a member of a different political party to the person whom they replace under subsection (1).
- (6) “Minister of State” has the same meaning as in the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975. 20

2 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Prime Minister (Temporary Appointment) Act 2016.
- (2) This Act extends to England and Wales and Scotland and Northern Ireland.

SCHEDULE

Section 1

ORDER OF SUCCESSION

- 1 In the event of the death or incapacitation of a person holding the title of Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, the title, salary and functions of that role shall be conferred upon another Secretary or Minister of State in accordance with the following order of precedence – 5
- (a) person bearing the designation of Deputy Prime Minister;
 - (b) Secretary of State with responsibility for Home Affairs;
 - (c) Secretary of State with responsibility for Defence;
 - (d) Secretary of State with responsibility for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; 10
 - (e) Chancellor of the Exchequer;
 - (f) Secretary of State with responsibility for Transport;
 - (g) Secretary of State with responsibility for Health;
 - (h) Secretary of State with responsibility for Business and Innovation; 15
 - (i) Secretary of State with responsibility for Justice;
 - (j) Secretary of State with responsibility for Communities and Local Government;
 - (k) Secretary of State with responsibility for Education;
 - (l) Secretary of State with responsibility for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; 20
 - (m) Secretary of State with responsibility for Work and Pensions;
 - (n) Minister of State with responsibility for the Cabinet Office;
 - (o) Paymaster General;
 - (p) Secretary of State with responsibility for Culture, Media and Sport 25
 - (q) Attorney General;
 - (r) Secretary of State with responsibility for Energy and Climate Change;
 - (s) Secretary of State with responsibility for International Development;
 - (t) Leader of the House of Commons; 30
 - (u) Leader of the House of Lords;
 - (v) Secretary of State with responsibility for Scotland;
 - (w) Secretary of State with responsibility for Wales;
 - (x) Secretary of State with responsibility for Northern Ireland.

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*Presented by Mr Peter Bone,
supported by Tom Pursglove,
Mr Philip Hollobone,
Philip Davies and
William Wragg.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 29 June 2015.*

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