

House of Lords (Maximum Membership) Bill

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TO

Provide for a maximum limit on the number of Peers entitled to vote in the House of Lords; and to provide for a moratorium on new appointments.

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 Number of peers entitled to vote

With effect from 1 June 2015, the maximum number of peers entitled to vote in the House of Lords shall be 650.

2 Maximum number of new peers

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|-----|---|----|
| (1) | Between 24 October 2014 and 1 June 2015, the maximum number of new peers appointed shall not exceed 45. | 5 |
| (2) | The limit on the maximum number of new peers in subsection (1) shall not include— | |
| | (a) archbishops and bishops sitting as such, and | |
| | (b) any new peer elected in the place of an existing hereditary peer. | 10 |

3 Retirement process

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| (1) | In the event that the number of peers entitled to vote in the House of Lords on 1 May 2015 exceeds 650, that number shall be reduced to 650 through a compulsory retirement process as set out in Section 4. | |
| (2) | A peer may retire as a member of the House of Lords by giving notice in writing to the Clerk of the Parliaments. | 15 |
| (3) | Any notice under subsection (2) must specify the date on which retirement is to take effect, provided that that date shall not be later than 1 May 2015. | |
| (4) | On the date specified in any notice under this section, the peer ceases to be a member of the House of Lords. | 20 |
| (5) | Any notice under this section may not be rescinded. | |

4 Compulsory retirement

- (1) The provisions in subsections (2) to (6) shall apply to any compulsory retirement process required under section 3.
- (2) The order in which peers shall be selected for compulsory retirement shall be based on seniority. 5
- (3) Seniority shall be calculated on the basis of the length of period that the peer has been a member of the House of Lords.
- (4) The peer with the greatest seniority shall be the first to be selected for compulsory retirement and subsequent retirees shall be chosen on the same basis. 10
- (5) Any compulsory retirement under the provisions of this section shall take effect on 31 May 2015 and may not be rescinded.
- (6) The provisions relating to compulsory retirement shall exclude archbishops and bishops sitting as such and any hereditary peers.

5 Conversion to hereditary title on retirement 15

- (1) Any peer giving notice under Section 3(2) shall at the time of giving notice specify whether or not that peer wishes his or her title to be converted at the date of retirement, to a hereditary title without voting rights.
- (2) Any peer who elects to have his or her title converted to a hereditary title without voting rights shall from the date of retirement be deemed to be a holder of a hereditary peerage. 20

6 Short title

This Act may be cited as the House of Lords (Maximum Membership) Act 2016.

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To provide for a maximum limit on the number of Peers entitled to vote in the House of Lords; and to provide for a moratorium on new appointments.

*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope,
supported by Mr Peter Bone,
Philip Davies,
Sir Edward Leigh,
Mr David Nuttall and
Mr Philip Hollobone.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 6 July 2015.*

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