

House of Lords (Parliamentary Standards Etc) Bill

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TO

Amend the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 to make provision for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to be responsible for determining, paying, maintaining oversight of, and adjudicating complaints relating to, the allowances, expenses and financial interests of members of the House of Lords; to amend the House of Lords Reform Act 2014 to provide for the compulsory retirement of members of the House of Lords under certain conditions; to make provision for the reduction of the number of members of the House of Lords; 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 Allowances and expenses from public funds payable to members of the House of Lords

- (1) The Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 is amended as follows.
- (2) Section 2 of that Act is repealed.
- (3) After Section 10A of that Act, the following section is inserted— 5
“10B Application to the House of Lords
 - (1) The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (“IPSA”) shall be responsible for determining and administering a scheme under which Members of the House of Lords may choose to receive, either— 10
 - (a) a flat-rate annual allowance (the “Peers’ Allowance”); or
 - (b) expenses against claims (“Peers’ Expenses”).
 - (2) The Compliance Officer may conduct an investigation if the Compliance Officer has reason to believe that a member of the House of Lords— 15
 - (a) may have been paid an amount from the public purse that should not have been allowed under rules relating to the scheme in subsection (1); or

- (b) may have been paid an amount or received some other benefit from any source that conflicts with the House of Lords Code of Conduct.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for any further arrangements that IPSA, or as the case may be the Compliance Officer, represents to the Secretary of State as being necessary to fulfil their responsibilities under subsections (1) and (2). 5
- (4) Regulations under subsection (3) shall be made by statutory instrument only after a draft of such an instrument has been laid before, and approved, by each House of Parliament.” 10

2 Number of peers in the House of Lords

- (1) With effect from 1 January 2020, the maximum number of peers qualified and entitled to attend, speak and vote in the House of Lords, and receive payments under section 10B of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, shall be 650.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provisions, including the amendment of any Acts of Parliament to implement subsection (1) subject to subsections (3) and (4). 15
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) shall be made by statutory instrument only after a draft of such an instrument has been laid before, and approved, by each House of Parliament. 20
- (4) A draft of a statutory instrument under subsections (2) and (3) may only be laid before Parliament if it gives effect to a resolution or resolutions of the House of Lords intended to achieve the objective, and meet the target, in subsection (1).

3 Extent, commencement and citation

- (1) This Act extends to the United Kingdom. 25
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day after the day on which it receives Royal Assent.
- (3) This Act may be cited as House of Lords (Parliamentary Standards Etc) Act 2016.

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*Ordered to be brought in by Sir Edward Leigh,
Robert Flello, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown,
Mike Kane, Mr Andrew Turner,
Philip Davies, Martin Vickers,
Mark Menzies, Michael Fabricant,
Daniel Kawczynski, Robert Neill
and Norman Lamb.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 17 November 2015.*

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LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx