

Remote Participation in House of Commons Proceedings (Motion) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

CONTENTS

- 1 Requirement to move a Motion in the House of Commons
- 2 Commencement and short title

[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Require the Leader of the House of Commons to move a Motion asserting the equal right of all Members of the House of Commons to participate in proceedings and establishing mechanisms for MPs unable to attend Westminster to vote remotely and to participate remotely in proceedings, including debates and general committees.

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 Requirement to move a Motion in the House of Commons

- (1) The Leader of the House of Commons must move a Motion of the form in subsection (2) as soon as reasonably practicable after this Act comes into force.
- (2) The form of the Motion is—

“Remote Participation

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- (1) That this House is committed to taking all steps necessary to balance its responsibilities for continuing scrutiny of the executive, legislating and representation of the interests of constituents with adherence to the guidance issued by Public Health England and the restrictions placed upon all citizens of the United Kingdom, and is further committed, in pursuit of that aim, to allowing virtual participation in the House's proceedings, to extending the digital capacity of those proceedings to ensure the participation of all Members, and to ensuring that its rules and procedures are adapted to permit as far as possible parity of treatment between Members participating virtually and Members participating in person. 10
- (2) Members may participate in any proceeding in the Chamber, Westminster Hall or general committees virtually, by electronic means approved by the Speaker, or by attending in person.
- (3) Members may participate in a division or a deferred division remotely through arrangements authorised by the Speaker. 15 20

- (4) Members shall give notice of virtual participation by electronic means designated by the Speaker.
- (5) The Speaker may amend any provision of paragraphs (2) to (5) of this order, if he determines it is necessary to do so in order to ensure that the conduct of business is consistent with paragraph (1).” 5
- (3) In this Act, “Leader of the House of Commons” has the same meaning as in section 12 of the Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Act 2019.

2 Commencement and short title

- (1) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (2) This Act may be cited as the Remote Participation in House of Commons Proceedings (Motion) Act 2020. 10

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