

Virginity Testing (Prohibition) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Prohibit virginity testing procedures; to make associated provision about education; 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 Offence

- (1) A person who—
 - (a) carries out a clinical procedure for the purpose, or purported purpose, of establishing if another person is a virgin,
 - (b) sells a product intended for the purpose, or purported purpose, of establishing if another person is a virgin, or
 - (c) advertises such a procedure or product,
 commits an offence. 5
- (2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section who is a registered medical professional to prove that they had good medical reason for their action. 10
- (3) A person who is guilty of an offence under this section is liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, to a fine, or to both.
- (4) If a court is considering for the purposes of sentencing the seriousness of an offence under this section, it must treat a fact listed in subsection (5) as an aggravating factor (that is to say, a factor that increases the severity of the offence). 15
- (5) Those facts are that the person guilty of the offence—
 - (a) charged, or intended to charge, for carrying out the procedure or for the product, or
 - (b) provided, or offered to provide, a certificate of virginity.20

2 Provision about education

- (1) *The Secretary of State may, by regulations made by statutory instrument, make provision about education relating to the offence in section 1.* 25

- (2) Regulations under this section may make requirements of—
 - (a) schools,
 - (b) National Health Service bodies, and
 - (c) local authoritiesin England. 5
- (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 30 days beginning on the day on which it is passed. 10
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Virginity Testing (Prohibition) Act 2021.

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*Presented by Mr Richard Holden
supported by Mrs Maria Miller, Ms Nusrat Ghani,
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