

# Energy Pricing Bill

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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# B I L L

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Prohibit the practice of offering preferential energy tariffs to new customers compared to existing customers; to place further restrictions on energy pricing; and for connected purposes.

**B**E 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 Prohibition of charging higher tariffs to existing customers**

As soon as practicable after this Act is passed, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority ("the Authority") must modify the standard supply licence conditions so that they require the holders of supply licences for the supply of gas or electricity under domestic supply contracts to offer renewing customers a tariff that is no higher than they would pay as a new customer (including as a new customer directed via any price comparison website).

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## **2 Effects of pricing practices on vulnerable customers**

- (1) The Authority must assess the particular effects of the pricing practices of holders of supply licences for the supply of gas and electricity under domestic supply contracts on customers who appear to the Authority to be vulnerable by reason of their financial or other circumstances.
- (2) If the Authority concludes that any practices are particularly detrimental to such customers it must take such steps to protect such customers as it considers appropriate by the exercise of its functions under the Gas Act 1986 and the Electricity Act 1989.

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## **3 Cheapest tariff messaging rules**

- (1) As soon as practicable after this Act is passed, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority must modify—
  - (a) all gas supply licences granted or treated as granted under section 7A(1) of the Gas Act 1986 by modifying standard licence condition 31D (White Label Tariffs), and

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- (b) all electricity supply licences granted or treated as granted under section 6(1)(d) of the Electricity Act 1989 by modifying standard licence condition 31D (White Label Tariffs)  
in accordance with subsection (2).
- (2) Modifications made under subsection (1) must require each supplier to include in their cheapest tariff messaging details of the cheapest tariff (including any tariff available on any price comparison website) available to the customer given their energy usage and circumstances, whether that tariff is offered by—
- (a) the licensee,
  - (b) any affiliate licensee, or
  - (c) another licensee.
- 4 Extent, commencement and short title**
- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales and Scotland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Energy Pricing Act 2021.



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supported by Margaret Ferrier, Marion Fellows,  
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Douglas Chapman.*

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