

# NHS England (Alternative Treatment) Bill

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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# B I L L

TO

Make provision about arranging alternative non-NHS England treatment for patients who have waited for more than one year for hospital treatment; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the King'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 Access for NHS patients to hospital treatment**

- (1) The Secretary of State shall by regulations make provision for a scheme to give access to hospital treatment for patients registered with the NHS in England who have been waiting for more than one year for NHS treatment.
- (2) The scheme under this section shall include arrangements for access to and payment for treatment which is not provided by the NHS. 5
- (3) The regulations shall make provision for calculating the length of period for which a patient has been awaiting NHS hospital treatment.
- (4) *The regulations shall make provision for the cost of delayed treatment under this section to be funded by NHS England.* 10
- (5) Regulations under this section—
  - (a) are to be made no later than six months after this Act comes into force;
  - (b) are to be made by statutory instrument;
  - (c) may not be made unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing them has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament. 15

## **2 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force three months after Royal Assent.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the NHS England (Alternative Treatment) Act 2024. 20

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*Presented by Sir Christopher Chope*

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