

Membership of the House of Lords (Elections) Bill

[HL]

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Provide for the Standing Orders of the House of Lords to designate certain members of the House of Lords as elected peers.

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 Election of life peers

Standing Orders of the House of Lords (“Standing Orders”) shall provide that a number of those persons who are members of the House of Lords by virtue of a life peerage conferred under the Life Peerages Act 1958 before the coming into force of this Act (“life peers”) shall be elected by the House, on the basis of their commitment to the work of the House, to work in and represent the House with the designation of an “elected life peer”.

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2 Eligibility for election

- (1) At any one time no more than 121 people shall be elected life peers.
- (2) Standing Orders shall make provision that the elected life peers shall consist of the following categories—
 - (a) 66 elected by life peers who are Labour members of the House of Lords on the date this Act comes into force;
 - (b) 22 elected by life peers who are Conservative members of the House of Lords on the date this Act comes into force;
 - (c) 8 elected by life peers who are Liberal Democrat members of the House of Lords on the date this Act comes into force; and
 - (d) 25 elected by life peers who are Crossbench members of the House of Lords on the date this Act comes into force.

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3 Elections: supplementary

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- (1) An elected life peer shall be so designated for a period of five years (or until an Act of Parliament provides to the contrary).

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- (2) Standing Orders shall make provision for filling vacancies arising among elected life peers.
- (3) A person may be elected under this Act by or in accordance with Standing Orders made in anticipation of the enactment or commencement of this section. 5
- (4) Any question whether a person is elected under this Act shall be decided by the Clerk of the Parliaments, whose certificate shall be conclusive.
- 4 Amendment of the Life Peerages Act**
- (1) Section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958 is amended as follows.
- (2) In paragraph (b) of subsection 2, for “subsection 4” substitute “subsections (4) and (5)”. 10
- (3) After subsection (4) insert—
- “(5) The entitlements set out in subsection (2)(b) apply whether or not the person is designated as an elected life peer under the Membership of the House of Lords (Elections) Act 2012.” 15
- 5 Designation of hereditary peers excepted under the House of Lords Act 1999**
- Standing Orders shall be amended to provide that hereditary peers who are members of the House of Lords by virtue of being elected in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the House of Lords Act 1999 shall work in and represent the House with the designation of an “elected hereditary peer”. 20
- 6 Final provisions**
- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act shall come into force at the end of the Session of Parliament in which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Membership of the House of Lords (Elections) Act 2012. 25

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Lord Selsdon

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