

Rights of the Sovereign and the Duchy of Cornwall Bill [HL]

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by Lord Berkeley, the Member in charge of the Bill, are published separately as HL Bill 15 – EN.

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TO

Amend the Sovereign Grant Act 2011; to amend the succession to the title of the Duke of Cornwall; to re-distribute the Duchy of Cornwall's estate; and to remove the requirement for a Parliament to obtain Queen's or Prince's consent to consideration of bills passing through Parliament.

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 Amendment to the Sovereign Grant Act 2011

- (1) Section 1 of the Sovereign Grant Act 2011 (the sovereign grant) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (2), after "Her Majesty's" insert "and the Duke of Cornwall's".
- (3) After subsection (2), insert the following new subsections— 5
 - "(2A) The Sovereign Grant may only be used to fund official Royal travel for—
 - (a) persons who are one of the six persons next in the line of succession to the Crown, and
 - (b) persons who are staff of those under paragraph (a). 10
 - (2B) "Official Royal travel" in subsection (2A) means—
 - (a) travel by air and rail by members of the Royal Family in pursuance of their official duties;
 - (b) travel by air and rail by senior members of the Royal Family between official residences; 15
 - (c) travel by air and rail by staff of the Royal Households where the journeys are undertaken directly in connection with the official duties of Members of the Royal Family."

2 Amendments to the Duchy of Cornwall estate

- (1) A Charter of 1337 (Regnal 11 Edward 3) ("the Charter") shall be read as follows. 20

- (2) Whereas in accordance with the Charter the title of Duke of Cornwall devolves on the eldest living son of the monarch being heir to the throne this shall be varied such that the title of Duke of Cornwall shall be passed to the eldest living child of the monarch being heir to the throne regardless of gender.
- (3) The assets and property of the Duchy of Cornwall shall be transferred to and shall vest in a public trust for the benefit of the people of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. 5
- (4) The Secretary of State may by order make provision as to the public trust established under subsection (3).
- 3 Removal of Queen's and Prince's consent 10**
- Nothing in any rule of law, or the law, or practice of Parliament shall require a Parliament to seek the consent of the Monarch, the Prince of Wales or the Prince Regent to the consideration of public bills which pass through Parliament.
- 4 Short title, commencement and extent 15**
- (1) This Act may be cited as the Rights of the Sovereign and the Duchy of Cornwall Act 2013.
- (2) Save for the provisions of subsection (3), this Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) Section 2(3) comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint. 20
- (4) This Act extends to the United Kingdom.

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Lord Berkeley

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