

A
B I L L

TO

Raise the minimum age of consent to marriage or civil partnership to eighteen; create an offence of causing a person under the age of eighteen to enter into a marriage or civil partnership; 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 Age of consent for marriage

- (1) The Marriage Act 1949 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 2 (marriages of persons under sixteen), for “sixteen” substitute “eighteen”.
- (3) Omit section 3 (marriages of persons under twenty-one). 5

2 Age of consent for civil partnership

- (1) The Civil Partnership Act 2004 is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)(c) of section 3 (eligibility), for “16” substitute “18”.
- (3) Omit section 4 (parental etc. consent where proposed civil partner under 18).

3 Offences 10

- (1) Section 121 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (offence of forced marriage: England and Wales) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)(a) after “marriage” insert “or civil partnership”.
- (3) In subsection (1)(b) after “marriage” insert “or civil partnership”.
- (4) In subsection (2) after “consent to marriage” insert “or civil partnership, or is under 18”. 15
- (5) In subsection (2) after “into a marriage” insert “or civil partnership”.

(6) After subsection (4) insert –

“() “Civil partnership” has the same meaning as in the Civil Partnership Act 2004.”.

4 Extent, commencement and short title

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only. | 5 |
| (2) Sections 1 to 3 come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed. | |
| (3) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed. | |
| (4) This Act may be cited as the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2016. | 10 |

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill [HL]

A

B I L L

To raise the minimum age of consent to marriage or civil partnership to eighteen; create an offence of causing a person under the age of eighteen to enter into a marriage or civil partnership; and for connected purposes.

Baroness Tonge

Ordered to be Printed, 25th May 2016

© Parliamentary copyright House of Lords 2016

This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS