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**B I L L**

TO

Provide for bishops of the Church of England no longer to be entitled to membership of the House of Lords.

**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 Exclusion of bishops**

- (1) No-one shall be a member of the House of Lords by virtue of being a bishop or Archbishop of the Church of England.
- (2) No bishop or Archbishop of the Church of England is entitled to receive, in that capacity, a writ of summons to attend, or sit and vote in, the House of Lords. 5
- (3) Nothing in this section prevents a person who is, or has been, a bishop or Archbishop of the Church of England from receiving, and exercising the entitlements under, a peerage for life in accordance with section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958.
- (4) Nothing in this section prevents a person who is, or has been, a bishop or Archbishop of the Church of England from being permitted to enter the House of Lords for the purpose only of leading prayers in accordance with arrangements made by that House (but arrangements of that House may not permit a present or former bishop or Archbishop to attend, sit or vote in, speak or otherwise participate as a member in proceedings of that House). 10  
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**2 Consequential provisions**

- (1) In the enactment formula used for Acts passed after the passing of this Act (other than Acts passed in accordance with the Parliament Act 1911), the phrase “, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords and Commons,” is to be used in place of the present phrase “by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons,”. 20
- (2) The following enactments cease to have effect—
  - (a) the Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015;

- (b) in section 41 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (tax status of MPs and members of the House of Lords), subsection (6)(b) (members entitled to receive writs of summons to attend the House of Lords by virtue of being an archbishop or bishop); but this paragraph is without prejudice to the continued application of that provision in relation to tax years beginning before the commencement of this Act; 5
- (c) in section 1 of the House of Commons (Removal of Clergy Disqualification) Act 2001 (removal of disqualification of clergy), subsection (2) (Lords Spiritual disqualified from being Member of House of Commons); 10
- (d) in section 2 of the Welsh Church Act 1914 (ecclesiastical corporations and bishops), subsection (3) (writs of summons to be issued to bishops not disqualified by the 1914 Act for sitting in the House of Lords);
- (e) the Bishoprics Act 1878; 15
- (f) in section 5(3) of the Bishops Designation Act 1869 (relative positions of bishop and bishop coadjutor) the words “, or acquire any title to sit in the House of Lords”; and
- (g) section 3 of the House of Lords Precedence Act 1539 (places of the Archbishops and Bishops). 20

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

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the House of Lords (Removal of Bishops) Act 2020. 25



# **House of Lords (Removal of Bishops) Bill [HL]**

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To provide for bishops of the Church of England no longer to be entitled to membership of the House of Lords.

*Lord Taverne*

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