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TO

Amend the law regarding succession to peerages and baronetcies and eligibility to stand for election as a hereditary member of the House of Lords; and for connected purposes.

**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 Succession to hereditary peerages**

- (1) A person to whom subsection (4) applies may petition Her Majesty to direct that the remainder of their peerage or baronetcy be modified so as to descend to the eldest child, irrespective of whether that child is male or female.
- (2) A petition may be presented to Her Majesty only if it is signed by the holder of the title and the current heir to the title, if any. 5
- (3) Her Majesty may grant the prayer of such a petition and, if She so directs, the peerage concerned shall descend accordingly from that point onwards.
- (4) This subsection applies to any person who is the holder of a hereditary peerage or baronetcy whose remainder either— 10
  - (a) limits the descent of the title solely to male heirs, or
  - (b) gives male heirs precedence over elder female siblings.

**2 Hereditary peer by-elections**

Standing Orders of the House of Lords shall make provision that in order to be eligible to stand for election under section 2 of the House of Lords Act 1999 a peer must hold a peerage (other than a peerage of Ireland) which descends to the eldest child, irrespective of whether that child is male or female. 15

**3 Interpretation, extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act does not affect the succession to the Crown or to any peerages or other dignities or things whatsoever held by Her Majesty. 20

- (2) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (3) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Hereditary Peerages and Baronetcies (Equality of Inheritance) Act 2020.



# Hereditary Peerages and Baronetcies (Equality of Inheritance) Bill [HL]

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*Lord Lucas*

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