

Agriculture Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Clause 1

LORD LUCAS

Page 2, line 25, at end insert—

“() promoting public understanding of, and engagement with, agriculture.”

Member’s explanatory statement

To discuss the desirability of public understanding and engagement with agriculture and how best practice might be encouraged.

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
BARONESS JONES OF MOULSECOOMB

Page 2, line 25, at end insert—

“() protecting or improving the food security of citizens and access to food that promotes good health and wellbeing.”

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH
LORD GRANTCHESTER

Page 2, line 25, at end insert—

“() supporting agriculture and horticulture businesses in producing healthy food that is farmed in an environmentally sustainable way.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would add to the purposes for which financial assistance can be given to ensure agriculture and horticulture businesses can claim support for the production of healthy and environmentally sustainable food.

BARONESS BOYCOTT
BARONESS MEACHER

Page 2, line 35, at end insert—

“() In framing any financial assistance scheme, the Secretary of State must also have regard to the need to improve public health outcomes, in particular through measures to—

Clause 1 - continued

- (a) increase the availability, affordability, diversity, quality and marketing of fruit, vegetables and pulses,
- (b) reduce farm antibiotic and related veterinary product use, and antibiotic resistance to harmful micro-organisms, through improved animal health and welfare,
- (c) provide support for farmers to diversify out of domestic production of foods where there may be reduced demand due to health concerns,
- (d) reduce harm from use of chemicals on farms, and
- (e) reduce pesticide residues in food.”

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH
LORD GRANTCHESTER

Page 3, line 6, at end insert –

““environmentally sustainable way” means a way which employs factors and practices that contribute to the quality of environment on a long-term basis and avoid the depletion of natural resources.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment defines “environmentally sustainable way” and is consequential on an earlier amendment allowing financial assistance to be granted for businesses producing food in such a manner.

Clause 17

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH
LORD GRANTCHESTER

Page 14, line 20, leave out “at least once every five years” and insert “within 12 months of the passing of this Act, and every three years thereafter”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to lay the first report on UK food security within 12 months of the Act being passed and publish further reports every three years thereafter.

Clause 27

LORD GRANTCHESTER
BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH

Page 23, line 15, leave out “a specified person” and insert “the Groceries Code Adjudicator”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment is intended to ensure that the role of regulating agricultural contracts is given to the Groceries Code Adjudicator’s office

Page 23, line 23, at end insert –

“(8A) The Groceries Code Adjudicator Act 2013 is amended as follows.

Clause 27 - continued

(8B) After section 2 (arbitration) insert –

“2A Fair dealing: determination of complaints alleging non-compliance

- (1) If a complaint relating to alleged non-compliance is referred to the Adjudicator under section 27(8)(a) of the Agriculture Act 2020, the Adjudicator must determine the complaint.
- (2) In determining any allegation of non-compliance under subsection (1), the Adjudicator must act in accordance with any regulations made under section 27(1) of the Agriculture Act 2020 which make provision for investigation of complaints, imposition of penalties or a requirement to pay compensation, as specified by section 27(8) of that Act.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would specify the process to be followed by the Groceries Code Adjudicator’s office in determining a complaint made under the Agriculture Act 2020.

Page 23, line 25, after “any” insert “competent and appropriate”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the role of regulating agricultural contracts is given to a body which is competent to undertake qualitative assessments; for example, the Groceries Code Adjudicator’s office.

Page 23, line 26, after the first “a” insert “competent and appropriate”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the role of regulating agricultural contracts is given to a body which is competent to undertake qualitative assessments; for example, the Groceries Code Adjudicator’s office.

After Clause 34

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH
LORD GRANTCHESTER

Insert the following new Clause –

“Duty to sustain the UK agricultural industry workforce

- (1) The Secretary of State must, before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a strategy outlining the steps that Her Majesty’s Government proposes to take to –
 - (a) ensure an appropriate supply of seasonal agricultural workers,
 - (b) increase the number of people undertaking –
 - (i) practical training, and
 - (ii) formal qualifications
 relating to agricultural work,
 - (c) ensure agricultural workers have sufficient access to –
 - (i) financial advice,
 - (ii) mental health support, and

After Clause 34 - continued

- (iii) any other support the Secretary of State deems appropriate, and
 - (d) ensure agricultural workers are subject to fair sectoral terms and conditions.
- (2) In preparing the strategy under subsection (2), the Secretary of State must consult—
- (a) other relevant UK Ministers,
 - (b) the Scottish Ministers,
 - (c) the Welsh Ministers,
 - (d) the Northern Ireland department, and
 - (e) bodies that appear to the Secretary of State to represent the interests of the UK agricultural industry.”

After Clause 42

LORD GRANTCHESTER
BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH

Insert the following new Clause—

“Requirement for agricultural and food imports to meet domestic standards

- (1) Chapters of an international trade agreement that contain provisions relating to the importation of agricultural and food products into the UK may not be ratified unless the conditions in subsections (2) to (5) have been met.
- (2) The condition in this subsection is that a Minister of the Crown has laid before Parliament a statement confirming that—
 - (a) the agreement contains an affirmation of the United Kingdom’s rights and obligations under the World Trade Organisation Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, and
 - (b) any agricultural or food product imported into the UK under the agreement will have been produced or processed according to standards which are, on the date of their importation, equivalent to, or exceed, the relevant domestic standards and regulations in relation to—
 - (i) animal health and welfare,
 - (ii) protection of the environment,
 - (iii) food safety, hygiene and traceability, and
 - (iv) plant health.
- (3) The condition in this subsection is that the Secretary of State has by regulations specified—
 - (a) the process by which the Secretary of State will determine—
 - (i) that the standards to which any agricultural or food product imported into the UK under a trade agreement is produced or processed are equivalent to, or exceed, the relevant domestic standards and regulations in relation to animal health and welfare, protection of the environment, food safety, hygiene and traceability, and plant health, and

After Clause 42 - continued

- (ii) that the enforcement of standards in relation to any product under subsection (3)(a)(i) is at least as effective as the enforcement of the equivalent domestic standards and regulations in the UK;
 - (b) the “relevant domestic standards and regulations” for the purposes of subsections (2)(b) and (3)(a)(i).
- (4) The condition in this subsection is that the chapters have been approved by a resolution of the House of Commons on a motion moved by a Minister of the Crown,
- (5) The condition in this subsection is that a motion for the House of Lords to take note of the chapters has been tabled in the House of Lords by a Minister of the Crown and –
 - (a) the House of Lords has debated the motion, or
 - (b) the House of Lords has not concluded a debate on the motion before the end of the period of five Lords sitting days beginning with the first Lords sitting day after the day on which the House of Commons passes the resolution mentioned in subsection (4).
- (6) A Minister of the Crown may where the Minister considers appropriate make regulations amending any regulations made under subsection (3).
- (7) Regulations made under subsection (3) or (6) shall not be made unless a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (8) In this section –
 - “chapters” means any individual section or sections of an international trade agreement;
 - “international trade agreement” means –
 - (a) an agreement that is or was notifiable under –
 - (i) paragraph 7(a) of Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, part of Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement (as modified from time to time), or
 - (ii) paragraph 7(a) of Article V of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, part of Annex 1B to the WTO Agreement (as modified from time to time), or
 - (b) an international agreement that mainly relates to trade, other than an agreement mentioned in paragraph (a)(i) or (ii);
 - “Lords sitting day” means a day on which the House of Lords is sitting (and a day is only a day on which the House of Lords is sitting if the House begins to sit on that day);
 - “Minister of the Crown” has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975;
 - “ratified” has the same meaning as in the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010;
 - “World Trade Organisation Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement” means the agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, part of Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement (as modified from time to time);

After Clause 42 - continued

“WTO Agreement” means the agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation signed at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994.”

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH
LORD GRANTCHESTER

Insert the following new Clause—

“Contribution of agriculture and associated land use to targets under the Climate Change Act 2008

- (1) In performing functions under this Act, including but not limited to the provision of financial assistance under sections 1(1) and 1(2), the Secretary of State must have due regard to the target for 2050 contained in section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008.
- (2) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must—
 - (a) publish a strategy outlining how Her Majesty’s Government plans to reduce the emissions resulting from agriculture and associated land use, and
 - (b) by regulations introduce an interim emissions target for 2030 which would provide for agriculture and associated land use to make substantial progress towards the target for 2050.
- (3) In formulating the strategy under subsection (2)(a), the Secretary of State must consult—
 - (a) other relevant UK Ministers,
 - (b) the Scottish Ministers,
 - (c) the Welsh Ministers,
 - (d) the Northern Ireland department,
 - (e) bodies that appear to the Secretary of State to represent the interests of the UK agricultural industry.
- (4) The strategy must be laid before Parliament.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (5)(b)—
 - (a) must define what is meant by the term “substantial progress”, and
 - (b) are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This Clause would require the Secretary of State to have due regard to the target for 2050 in the Climate Change Act 2008 when exercising functions under this Act, and introduce an interim target for 2030 which will provide for agriculture to make substantial progress towards the target for 2050.

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12 June 2020
