

Agriculture Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Clause 1

THE EARL OF DEVON

Page 2, line 8, after “managing” insert “agricultural”

Page 2, line 10, leave out “enjoyment of the countryside, farmland or woodland” and insert “health and wellbeing benefits from agricultural land”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment removes the term “enjoyment of” and replaces it with a specific public benefit to “health and wellbeing”.

Page 2, line 12, after “managing” insert “agricultural”

Page 2, line 14, after “managing” insert “agricultural”

Page 2, line 16, after “managing” insert “agricultural”

Page 2, line 34, after “of” insert “healthy and nutritious”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment introduces the requirement for the food production to be considered to be both “healthy and nutritious” and avoids the Secretary of State having regard to the production of unhealthy food.

Page 2, line 36, at end insert –

““agricultural land” means arable land, including temporary grassland and fallow land, permanent grassland, and permanent crops;”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment (with others in the name of the Earl of Devon) seeks to ensure that financial assistance is directed to agricultural land, as under the current CAP regime, and not any land, by adopting the definition in the current Basic Payment Scheme rules.

Clause 4

THE EARL OF DEVON

Page 5, line 17, leave out “five” and insert “seven”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment aims to reduce the politicisation of multi-annual assistance plans, and ensure their renewal schedule is not timed to coincide with election cycles.

Page 5, line 22, after “State” insert “at least two months”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would require the multi-annual financial assistance plan to be laid before Parliament so that it can be considered for at least two months before coming into effect.

Clause 16

THE EARL OF DEVON

Page 12, line 43, at end insert –

“() making provision for future contributions to existing rural socio-economic schemes;”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would safeguard the availability of financial provisions to continue the socio-economic programmes under Rural Development Programmes in the event of delays in the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Clause 17

THE EARL OF DEVON

Page 14, line 20, leave out “five” and insert “three”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment will ensure food security reporting occurs with more regularity.

LORD HAIN

Page 14, line 32, at end insert –

“(f) food insecurity.

- (3) For the purposes of this section “food insecurity” means a person’s state in which consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.
- (4) Before laying a report under subsection (1) the Secretary of State must –
 - (a) consult the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers, the relevant Northern Ireland department, and such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, and
 - (b) have due regard to international best practice on food insecurity, including but not limited to the United States Household Food Security Survey.

Clause 17 - continued

- (5) A report under subsection (1) must include—
- (a) an assessment of trends in food insecurity, broken down by different parts of the United Kingdom and different regions of England, and
 - (b) a summary of actions to be taken in areas of high food insecurity by the UK Government, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government or the Northern Ireland Executive.
- (6) The Secretary of State must consult the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and the relevant Northern Ireland department before preparing a report under subsection (1).
- (7) In this section—
- “parts of the United Kingdom” means—
- (a) England,
 - (b) Scotland,
 - (c) Wales, and
 - (d) Northern Ireland;
- “regions of England” has the same meaning as that used by the Office for National Statistics.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would add food insecurity to the matters to be covered by the report.

Clause 35

BARONESS NEVILLE-ROLFE

Page 33, line 9, at end insert—

- “() Before making regulations under this section, the Secretary of State must consult anyone reasonably likely to be affected by the regulations and lay a report summarising the responses to that consultation before Parliament.”

After Clause 42

LORD HAIN

Insert the following new Clause—

“International trade agreements: agricultural and food products

- (1) A Minister of the Crown may not lay a copy of an international trade agreement before Parliament under section 20(1) of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 that contains provisions relating to the importation of agricultural and food products into the United Kingdom unless they have first made 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 United Kingdom under the agreement will have been produced or processed according to standards which are equivalent to, or which exceed, the relevant domestic standards and regulations in relation to—

After Clause 42 - continued

- (i) animal health and welfare,
 - (ii) plant health, and
 - (iii) environmental protection.
- (2) A statement under subsection (1) must be laid before each House of Parliament.
- (3) Before the first statement under subsection (1) may be made, the Secretary of State must by regulations specify –
- (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 United Kingdom under a trade agreement is produced or processed are equivalent to, or exceed, the relevant domestic continued standards and regulations in relation to animal health and welfare, plant health and environmental protection, and
 - (ii) that the enforcement of standards in relation to any product under sub-paragraph (3)(a)(i) is at least as effective as the enforcement of the equivalent domestic standards and regulations in the United Kingdom,
 - (b) the “relevant domestic standards and regulations” for the purposes of subsections (1)(b) and (3)(a)(i).
- (4) The Secretary of State may make regulations amending any regulations made under subsection (3).
- (5) Regulations under subsection (3) or (4) are subject to affirmative resolution procedure.
- (6) In this section –
- “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);
- “Minister of the Crown” has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975;
- “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);
- “WTO Agreement” means the agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation signed at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Minister, before laying an international trade agreement under CRAG 2010 which contains provisions relating to the importation of agricultural and food products, to (a) make a statement to Parliament, and (b) lay regulations before Parliament relating to the standards of imported products.

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25 June 2020
