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**B I L L**

TO

Permit the Secretary of State to withhold payment of housing benefit on grounds of anti-social behaviour in certain circumstances.

**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 Withholding of housing benefit on grounds of anti-social behaviour**

- (1) If in any three year period the anti-social behaviour of a tenant or of any individual living with a tenant has resulted on two or more occasions in an order being made by a magistrates' court against, or in the summary conviction of, the tenant or any individual living with the tenant, the Secretary of State may withhold any payment of housing benefit to the tenant, any individual living with the tenant or any landlord responsible for property in which the tenant usually resides for a period not exceeding twelve months. 5
- (2) In subsection (1), "anti-social behaviour", means behaviour causing or likely to cause alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance. 10

**2 Withholding of housing benefit: landlords**

If in any three year period the anti-social behaviour of any tenant or of any individual living with a tenant has resulted on two or more occasions in an order being made by a magistrates' court against, or in the summary conviction of, any tenant or any individual living with a tenant in respect of a single property, the Secretary of State may withhold any payment of housing benefit to any landlord responsible for that property for a period not exceeding twelve months. 15

**3 Short title, commencement and extent**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Housing Benefit (Withholding of Payment) Act 2002. 20
- (2) This Act shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State shall by order made by statutory instrument appoint.

(3) This Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.



# Housing Benefit (Withholding of Payment) Bill

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*Presented by Mr Frank Field*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be printed, 27th February 2002.*

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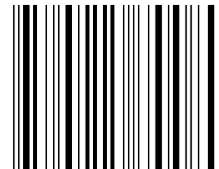
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