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**B I L L**

TO

Require the Secretary of State to lay before the House of Commons a mechanism for obtaining the approval of that House for the deployment of British forces for armed conflict.

**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 Duty of the Secretary of State**

- (1) The Secretary of State (or another Minister of the Crown acting on his behalf) shall, within 12 months of the passing of this Act, make a motion in the House of Commons to give effect to the provisions of subsection (3) by —
  - (a) amendment of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons, or 5
  - (b) some other means which the Secretary of State may determine.
- (2) Before discharging his duty under subsection (1), the Secretary of State shall consult —
  - (a) the Public Administration Committee of the House of Commons,
  - (b) the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, 10
  - (c) the Defence Committee of the House of Commons,
  - (d) the Procedure Committee of the House of Commons, and
  - (e) the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Constitution.
- (3) The committees referred to in subsection (2) shall be taken to include any committees carrying out similar functions. 15
- (4) The motion made under subsection (1) must provide a mechanism for the House of Commons to give approval for the deployment of British forces for armed conflict and must include —
  - (a) a requirement for the Prime Minister to seek the approval of the House of Commons and the House of Lords prior to any deployment of British armed forces outside the United Kingdom into an armed conflict; 20
  - (b) a requirement for the Prime Minister to lay before the House of Commons, before seeking their approval in accordance with paragraph (a), a report setting out —

- (i) the objectives of,
- (ii) legal basis for, and
- (iii) likely duration of  
the deployment;
- (c) a procedure (the “exception procedure”) to be followed in 5  
circumstances when the Prime Minister determines that, for reasons of  
security or urgency, deployment is required prior to any approval of  
the House of Commons, providing that a report referred to in  
paragraph (b) above must be laid within seven days of the  
commencement of deployment or as soon as is practicable thereafter; 10
- (d) provision for the procedure specified in paragraph (a) to be followed as  
soon as practicable after any use of the exception procedure; and
- (e) a requirement for the Prime Minister to seek further approval in  
accordance with paragraph (a) if in his opinion there has been any  
significant change to the objectives of the deployment, as stated in the 15  
report laid under paragraph (b)(i).

## 2 Interpretation

In this Act –

“armed conflict” means any use of force which gives rise, or may give rise,  
to a situation of armed conflict to which the Geneva Conventions of 20  
1949 or the Additional Protocols of 1977 apply;

“British forces” means –

- (a) regular services, or
- (b) the reserve forces;

“regular services” means the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the regular 25  
army or the regular air force;

“the reserve forces” has the same meaning as in section 1(2) of the Reserve  
Forces Act 1996 (c. 14) (power to maintain the reserve forces).

## 3 Short title

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Waging War (Parliament's Role and 30  
Responsibility) Act 2007.

# Waging War (Parliament's Role and Responsibility) Bill

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