

# Bilingual Juries (Wales) Bill

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# B I L L

TO

Amend section 10 of the Juries Act 1974 to provide that in certain cases all members of a jury be bilingual in Welsh and English; 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 Amendment of the Juries Act 1974**

- (1) The Juries Act 1974 (c. 23) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 10, after “English” insert “or in Wales, where a party, witness or other person may use Welsh in the course of the hearing, insufficient understanding of Welsh,”. 5
- (3) At the end of section 10, add—
  - “(2) For the purposes of assessing the sufficiency of a person's understanding of Welsh, it shall be sufficient that the person has made an assertion of his ability to speak Welsh in the annual return made to the local authority of the place in which he resides. 10
  - (3) It shall be a duty of electoral registration officers of local authorities in Wales to send to such persons as the Lord Chancellor may by order designate copies of the electoral register for their area indicating those persons within the age limits of jury service able to speak Welsh, and the register shall be sufficient evidence of a person's ability to understand Welsh for the purposes of subsection (1). 15
  - (4) An order made by statutory instrument under subsection (3) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.”

## **2 Short title, commencement and extent** 20

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Bilingual Juries (Wales) Act.
- (2) The preceding provisions of this Act shall come into force at the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.

- (3) This Act extends to Wales only.

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## B I L L

To amend section 10 of the Juries Act 1974 to provide that in certain cases all members of a jury be bilingual in Welsh and English; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by  
Hywel Williams, Dr Hywel Francis,  
Mr Elfyn Llwyd, Mr Dai Davies,  
Mr Roger Williams, Michael Fabricant,  
Mr Angus MacNeil, Andrew George,  
Nia Griffith, Adam Price and Mr Dan Rogerson.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 16th January 2007.*

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