

Safeguarding Runaway and Missing Children Bill

CONTENTS

- 1 “Runaway and missing children”
- 2 Duty of Secretary of State in relation to runaway and missing children
- 3 Regulations
- 4 Expenses
- 5 Short title, commencement and extent

A
B I L L

TO

Require the Secretary of State to establish a national strategy to safeguard runaway and missing children; to make provision for the collection and reporting of information about runaway and missing children and for related co-ordination between local authorities and other bodies; and for connected purposes.

BE 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 “Runaway and missing children”

- (1) In this Act “runaway and missing children” includes any child or young person under the age of eighteen who—
- (a) has run away or is staying away from the person who is responsible for that child, or 5
 - (b) has left home due to rejection by the person who is responsible for that child, or
 - (c) has been unlawfully taken away or is being unlawfully kept away from the person who is responsible for that child, or
 - (d) is missing. 10

2 Duty of Secretary of State in relation to runaway and missing children

- (1) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State by regulations—
- (a) to promote the establishment of a national strategy and service framework to safeguard runaway and missing children; and
 - (b) to make such provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate for the collection and reporting of information about runaway and missing children. 15

3 Regulations

- (1) The power of the Secretary of State to make regulations under section 2 is exercisable by statutory instrument. 20

- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under section 2 is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

4 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –

- (a) *any expenditure under this Act of the Secretary of State, and* 5
(b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of money so provided under any other enactment.*

5 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Safeguarding Runaway and Missing Children Act 2007. 10
- (2) This Act shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

Safeguarding Runaway and Missing Children Bill

A

B I L L

To require the Secretary of State to establish a national strategy to safeguard runaway and missing children; to make provision for the collection and reporting of information about runaway and missing children and for related co-ordination between local authorities and other bodies; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Helen Southworth
supported by
Ann Coffey, Dan Norris, John Battle,
Mr Barry Sheerman, Mr Kevin Barron,
Mr John Denham, Ann Keen, Ms Dari Taylor,
Jane Kennedy, Mr Stewart Jackson
and Mr Paul Burstow.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 17th January 2007.*

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2007
*Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to the Copyright Unit,
Her Majesty's Stationery Office, St. Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich, NR3 1BQ*

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx