

Members of Parliament (Employment Disqualification) Bill

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TO

Make provision for the regulation of remunerated employment of Members of Parliament; 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 Members of Parliament not to undertake additional remunerated employment

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Member of Parliament shall not undertake any additional remunerated employment likely to interfere with his performance of his Parliamentary duties. 5
- (2) A member who undertakes remunerated employment in contravention of subsection (1) is disqualified for membership of the House of Commons.
- (3) A Member of Parliament is not disqualified for membership of the House of Commons under subsection (2) if the remunerated employment he undertakes is commensurate with his duties and responsibilities as a Member of Parliament. 10
- (4) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (3), remunerated employment which does not disqualify a Member of Parliament for membership of the House of Commons includes— 15
- (a) writing books, articles and pamphlets,
 - (b) public speaking,
 - (c) work on behalf of charities or not for profit organisations,
 - (d) policy research and development,
- commensurate with his duties and responsibilities as a Member of Parliament.
- (5) A Member of Parliament is not disqualified for membership of the House of Commons under subsection (2) if he receives remuneration from a company or other undertaking in which he has an interest, unless he is engaged in the day to day activities of that company or undertaking. 20

- (6) In sections 6 and 7 of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (c. 24), references to that Act shall be construed as including references to the Members of Parliament (Employment Disqualification) Act 2007.

2 Existing employment on election to House of Commons

- (1) A Member of Parliament who on election to the House of Commons is undertaking remunerated employment for the purposes of section 1(1) shall not be considered to be disqualified for membership of the House of Commons by virtue of that employment unless he is still so employed on the day six months after the date of his election. 5
- (2) Before the expiry of the six month period specified in subsection (1), a Member of Parliament may apply to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards for an extension of the time during which he may undertake remunerated employment without being disqualified for membership of the House of Commons, and the Commissioner may agree to an extension of such duration as he thinks fit, provided that any such extension shall be for no more than six months. 10 15
- (3) Only one extension under subsection (2) may be granted in respect of any one Member of Parliament.

3 Short title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Members of Parliament (Employment Disqualification) Act 2007. 20
- (2) This Act shall come into force a year after the day on which it receives Royal Assent.

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To make provision for the regulation of remunerated employment of Members of Parliament; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Martin Salter
supported by
Ms Karen Buck, Mrs Joan Humble,
Dr Alan Whitehead, Dr Phyllis Starkey,
David Wright, Mr David Drew,
Mr Martin Caton, Colin Burgon, Angela Eagle,
Mr Kevan Jones and Joan Ruddock.*

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

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