

Constitutional Reform Bill

CONTENTS

- 1 Speaker's conference
- 2 Matters to be included in draft constitution
- 3 Reports of the Conference
- 4 Subsequent proceedings
- 5 Entry into force of Constitution
- 6 Expenses
- 7 Short title

A
B I L L

TO

Provide for the drawing up of a written constitution for the United Kingdom; for its consideration by the people and Parliament of the United Kingdom; 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 Speaker's conference

- (1) Within three months of the passing of this Act, the Speaker of the House of Commons shall convene a Speaker's Conference to consider the matter of a written constitution for the United Kingdom, to draw up a draft of such a constitution ("the draft constitution"), and to consider such related matters as the Conference shall think fit. 5
- (2) There shall be eleven members of the Conference, of whom one shall be the Speaker of the House of Commons as Chairman.
- (3) The Speaker of the House of Commons shall appoint the members of the Conference after consulting with such persons and bodies as he considers to be appropriate, and shall make such further appointments as may be required. 10
- (4) The Conference shall have power to make such rules for the conduct of its business as are required.
- (5) The Conference shall have power to appoint such staff as it considers necessary for the conduct of its business. 15
- (6) The provisions of the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921 (c. 7) shall apply to the Conference.

2 Matters to be included in draft constitution

- In drawing up the draft constitution, the Conference shall make provision for— 20
- (a) the separation of constitutional powers as between the Executive and the Legislature;

- (b) the protection of individual and collective rights;
- (c) the entrenchment of the Constitution as eventually approved (“the Constitution”);
- (d) methods of amendment of the Constitution;
- (e) the relationship between the provisions of the draft constitution and the legal and judicial systems of the United Kingdom; and 5
- (f) any other matters the Conference may think fit.

3 Reports of the Conference

- (1) Not later than twelve months after the passing of this Act the Speaker of the House of Commons shall lay before each House of Parliament, and cause to be published, the draft constitution drawn up by the Conference, together with any report by the Conference on the discharge of its duties under this Act. 10
- (2) The draft constitution shall be drawn up in the form of a Bill, and shall contain a provision that its commencement shall be dependent on approval by referendum under section 4(6) below. 15
- (3) The Conference may make such interim reports on the discharge of its duties under this Act as it sees fit.
- (4) Any such interim report shall be laid before each House of Parliament and published as provided for in subsection (1) above.
- (5) The Conference shall continue in being after the draft constitution has been laid before each House of Parliament. 20

4 Subsequent proceedings

- (1) Not later than two months after the draft constitution has been laid before each House of Parliament, the Prime Minister shall present to the House of Commons a Bill embodying the draft constitution, the text of which shall be the same in all respects as that approved by the Conference. 25
- (2) Immediately upon the passing of the Bill embodying the draft constitution, the Prime Minister shall make arrangements for the holding of a referendum to consider the draft constitution (“the referendum”).
- (3) The referendum shall be held within three months of the passing of the Bill. 30
- (4) The administrative arrangements for the referendum and the requirements for the qualification of voters shall, so far as is practicable, follow those for a General Election.
- (5) The Conference may give such advice as may be required in connection with the holding of the referendum. 35
- (6) Approval or rejection of the draft constitution shall be by a simple majority of those voting in the referendum.
- (7) Any matters of doubt or dispute in the conduct of the referendum shall be decided by the Conference, the decision of which shall be final, and in respect of which no proceedings shall lie. 40

5 Entry into force of Constitution

If approved by the referendum, the Constitution shall enter into force twenty-one days after polling day in the referendum.

6 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –

5

- (a) *any expenses incurred under this Act by a Minister of the Crown or by the Conference; and*
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of such money under any other Act.*

7 Short title

10

This Act may be cited as the Constitutional Reform Act 2007.

Constitutional Reform Bill

A

B I L L

To provide for the drawing up of a written constitution for the United Kingdom; for its consideration by the people and Parliament of the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

Presented by Mr Graham Allen.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 23rd May 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

Bill 114

(xxxxxx)

54/2

xxxbarxxx