

THE
STANDING ORDERS OF
THE HOUSE OF LORDS
RELATING TO PUBLIC BUSINESS

2007

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LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED

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STANDING ORDERS

OF THE

HOUSE OF LORDS

FORMERLY STYLED

REMEMBRANCES for Order and Decency to be kept in the UPPER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, by the Lords.

Arrangements when Her Majesty is present

1.—(1) When Her Majesty comes publicly to the House, the Lords shall be attired in their robes or in such other dress as may be approved by Her Majesty, and shall sit in their due places.

Arrangements when Her Majesty present. 22 December 1720.*

(2) At all such solemn times, before Her Majesty comes, no person other than a Lord shall be allowed on the floor of the House except:

(a) such members of the Royal Family as Her Majesty may direct;

(b) Judges summoned by writ and the officers and attendants of this House;

(c) such Peeresses and members of the Diplomatic Corps as are in possession of an invitation issued by the Lord Great Chamberlain.

(3) No person whatsoever shall presume to stand upon the steps of the Throne but such as carry Her Majesty's train and those that bear the Regalia.

(4) The approaches to the House shall be kept clear from all unauthorised persons, and the Lord Great Chamberlain shall be desired to take care to see this Order duly observed.

* *The dates following the sidenotes are those on which a Standing Order on the subject is first recorded. Most of the Orders have been amended subsequently.*

Lords and the manner of their introduction

Lords not to sit in Parliament before twenty-one.
22 May 1685.

2. No Lord under the age of one and twenty years shall be permitted to sit in the House.

Peers by descent not to be introduced.
27 July 1663.

3. Peers summoned by writ by virtue of their descent, being of the age of one and twenty years, may sit in the House without any introduction, and no such Peers shall be introduced by any herald or with any ceremony.

No fee to be paid on introduction.
27 July 1663.

4. No Peer shall pay any fee to any herald upon his first coming or introduction into the House.

Difference in form or style of writs.
27 March 1621.

5. If there be any difference in the form or style of the writs from the ancient, it is to be examined how it came to pass.

Bishops Lords of Parliament to be introduced.
27 March 1621.

6. Bishops to whom a writ of summons has been issued are not Peers but are Lords of Parliament, and shall be introduced on first receiving a writ and also on translation to another See.

Lords' higher titles to be used.
1 June 1954.

7. When any Lord who has a higher title or dignity than that by which he sits in Parliament shall be named in any record of the proceedings of the House, or of any Committee thereof, the said higher title alone shall be used, but when such a Lord takes the Oath of Allegiance the title or dignity by which he sits in Parliament shall be added in brackets after such higher title or dignity.

Precedency.
10 April 1628.

8. Every Peer, upon new creation, shall have place according to his degree and the date of his Letters Patent, and every Peer shall hold his place according to his ancienty in his degree, unless it be in case of such persons as are particularly mentioned in any Act of Parliament.

Excepted Hereditary Peers

Hereditary peers.
26 July 1999.

9.—(1) In implementation of section 2 of the House of Lords Act 1999, this Standing Order makes provision for hereditary peers who are excepted from section 1.

(2) The excepted hereditary peers shall consist of the following categories:

(i) (a) 2 peers elected by the Labour hereditary peers;

(b) 42 peers elected by the Conservative hereditary peers;

(c) 3 peers elected by the Liberal Democrat hereditary peers;

(d) 28 peers elected by the Cross-bench hereditary peers;

(ii) 15 peers, elected by the whole House, from among those ready to serve as Deputy Speakers or in any other office as the House may require; and

(iii) any peer holding the office of Earl Marshal or performing the office of Lord Great Chamberlain.

(3) Elections shall be conducted in accordance with arrangements made by the Clerk of the Parliaments.

(4) In order to stand for election or qualify as an elector under paragraph (2)(i), a peer must register with the Clerk of the Parliaments, identifying the party or Cross-bench group to which he belongs. In order to stand for election under paragraph (2)(ii), a peer must register separately with the Clerk of the Parliaments. A peer may not stand for election nor vote if he has not taken the Oath or is on Leave of Absence.

(5) In the event of a tie between two or more candidates standing in any of the elections held in accordance with paragraph (2), the matter (if not resolved by the electoral arrangements adopted by the House) shall be decided by the drawing of lots.

(6) The Clerk of the Parliaments may refer any question concerning the propriety of the electoral process to the Committee for Privileges.

(7) In the event of a vacancy occurring at any time up to the end of the initial period through death among the peers elected in category (2)(i) or (2)(ii), the vacancy shall be filled by the nearest runner-up in the relevant election under paragraph (2) who both wishes to fill the vacancy and is otherwise available. The provisions of paragraph (5) are applicable for this purpose. If no such runner-up is available, the House shall decide how the vacancy shall be filled.

(8) In this Standing Order and in Standing Order 10 the end of the “initial period” is the end of the first session of the next Parliament after that in which the House of Lords Act 1999 is passed.

Hereditary peers: by-elections.
26 July 1999.

10.—(1) In implementation of subsection (4) of section 2 of the House of Lords Act 1999, this Standing Order makes provision for by-elections to fill vacancies occurring by death among excepted hereditary peers after the end of the initial period.

(2) In the event of the death of a hereditary peer excepted under Standing Order 9(2)(i) only the excepted hereditary peers in the group in which the vacancy has occurred shall be entitled to vote.

(3) In the event of the death of a hereditary peer excepted under Standing Order 9(2)(ii) the whole House shall be entitled to vote.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) shall apply also in the case of any subsequent by-elections.

(5) The Clerk of the Parliaments shall maintain, and publish annually, a register of hereditary peers (other than peers of Ireland) who wish to stand in any by-election.

(6) By-elections shall be conducted in accordance with arrangements made by the Clerk of the Parliaments and shall take place within three months of a vacancy occurring.

(7) Paragraphs (5) and (6) of Standing Order 9 shall apply to by-elections under this Standing Order.

Register of hereditary peers.
23 January 2001.

11. Any hereditary peer (not previously in receipt of a writ of summons) who wishes to be included in the register maintained by the Clerk of the Parliaments pursuant to Standing Order 10(5) shall petition the House and any such petition shall be referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report upon whether such peer has established his right to be included in the register.

The House and its arrangements

Right to be present in House when sitting.
5 April 1707.

12. When the House is sitting, no person shall be on the floor of the House except Lords of Parliament and such other persons as assist or attend the House. Upon an Order of the House, the persons in all or any of the galleries or in the spaces about the Throne and below the Bar are to withdraw.

Duties and powers of Black Rod.
31 January 1973.

13.—(1) The admission of strangers to the Chamber and the precincts of the House, whether or not the House is sitting, shall be subject to such orders and rules as the House may make. The

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod shall give effect to such orders and rules and shall have such powers (including the power to take into custody) as are necessary for that purpose.

(2) Respect is to be had to the Chamber, whether or not the House is sitting.

(3) The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod shall take into his custody any person whom the House may order to be detained.

(4) In the absence of the Gentleman Usher, the Yeoman Usher may act in his place.

14. No doorkeeper attending the House shall presume to come or stay within the doors of the House when sitting (unless ordered so to do).

Doorkeepers not to stay within the House when sitting.
14 February 1704.

15. Upon an Order for a secret sitting, the Chamber shall be cleared of all persons, except Lords of Parliament, the Clerks at the Table, Black Rod and the Serjeant-at-Arms, and thereupon the proceedings shall be secret. Members of the House of Commons shall not be required to withdraw under this Standing Order.

Secret sittings.
1 June 1954.

16. The printing or publishing of anything relating to the proceedings of the House is subject to the privilege of the House.

Printing or publication of proceedings.
27 February 1699.

17.—(1) If, during any adjournment of the House, the Lord Speaker, after consultation with Her Majesty's Government, is satisfied that the public interest requires that the House should meet at a time earlier than that appointed, he may signify that he is so satisfied and notice shall be given and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in the notice, as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Recall of the House.
20 May 1970.

(2) If the Lord Speaker is unable to act for the purposes of this Standing Order, the Chairman of Committees, after consultation with Her Majesty's Government, may act in his stead.

(3) Notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, the House may meet for judicial business at a time earlier than that appointed if the senior Lord of Appeal in Ordinary is satisfied that it should do so and has signified that he is so satisfied and has given notice to such Lords as he thinks fit.

Speaker of the House

Speaker of the House.
9 June 1660.

18.—It is the duty of the Lord Speaker ordinarily to attend the Lords House of Parliament as Speaker of the House; and in case the Lord Speaker be absent, his place on the Woolsack or in the Chair may be taken either by a Deputy Speaker, authorised under the Great Seal from the Queen to supply that place, or by a Deputy Chairman, appointed by the House; and if neither a Deputy Speaker nor a Deputy Chairman be present, the Lords may then choose their own Speaker during that vacancy.

Election of Lord
Speaker
3 May 2006.

19.—(1) The first election of the Lord Speaker shall be held no later than 30th June 2006. Thereafter elections shall be held (a) no more than five years after the previous election, or (b) within three months of the death of the Lord Speaker, or his giving notice of resignation, if sooner. If, after a date has been set in accordance with (a) or (b), a Dissolution of Parliament is announced, the applicable deadline shall be extended to one month after the opening of the next Parliament.

(2) All members of the House shall be entitled to stand for election and to vote, save that (a) Lords who have not taken the Oath in the current Parliament, or who are on Leave of Absence, may not stand or vote and (b) a Lord who has been successful in two previous elections may not stand. Before they can stand, candidates shall require a proposer and a seconder, who must themselves be eligible to stand.

(3) The election shall be conducted in accordance with arrangements made by the Clerk of the Parliaments. The Clerk of the Parliaments may refer any question concerning the propriety of the electoral process to the Committee for Privileges.

(4) In the event of a tie between two or more candidates, the matter (if not resolved by the electoral arrangements adopted by the House) shall be decided by the drawing of lots.

(5) The result of the election shall be subject to the approval of Her Majesty The Queen.

(6) The Chairman of Committees may act during any vacancy in the office of Speaker.

(7) The Lord Speaker may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Leader of the House.

(8) If the House passes a motion for an Address to Her Majesty seeking the Lord Speaker's removal from office, the Lord Speaker shall be deemed to have resigned.

General observances

20.—(1) The Lords in the Upper House are to keep dignity and order, and not to remove out of their places without just cause, to the hindrance of others that sit near them, and the disorder of the House; and are not to pass between the Woolsack and the Table, nor between the Woolsack and the Lord who is speaking.

Order in the House.
27 March 1621.

(2) When the House is sitting, every Lord is to make obeisance to the Cloth of Estate on entering the House.

21. The Judges, when summoned to attend the House, are not to speak or deliver any opinion until it be required, and they be admitted so to do by the major part of the House in case of difference.

Judges.
27 March 1621.

22. If any Lord has occasion to speak with another Lord while the House is sitting, they are to retire to the Prince's Chamber, and not converse in the space behind the Woolsack; or else the Lord Speaker is to call them to order, and, if necessary, to stop the business in agitation.

Lords not to converse
whilst the House is
upon business.
30 March 1670.

23.—(1) Lords are to attend the sittings of the House or, if they cannot do so, obtain leave of absence, which the House may grant at pleasure; but this Standing Order shall not be understood as requiring a Lord who is unable to attend regularly to apply for leave of absence if he proposes to attend as often as he reasonably can.

Leave of absence.
16 June 1958.

(2) A Lord may apply for leave of absence at any time during a Parliament for the remainder of that Parliament.

(3) On the issue of writs for the calling of a new Parliament the Clerk of the Parliaments shall in writing ask every Lord who was on leave of absence at the end of the preceding Parliament whether he wishes to apply for leave of absence for the new Parliament.

(4) A Lord who has been granted leave of absence is expected not to attend the sittings of the House until the period for which

the leave was granted has expired or the leave has sooner ended, unless it be to take the Oath of Allegiance.

(5) If a Lord, having been granted leave of absence, wishes to attend during the period for which the leave was granted, he is expected to give notice to the House accordingly at least one month before the day on which he wishes to attend; and at the end of the period specified in the notice, or sooner if the House so direct, the leave shall end.

Lords not to answer accusations in the House of Commons.
20 January 1674.

24. No Lord shall either go down to the House of Commons or send his answer in writing or appear by Counsel, to answer any accusation there.

Lords' attendance at Commons Select Committees.
26 July 1983.

25. Any Lord requested by a Committee appointed by the Commons to attend as a witness before it or before any Sub-Committee appointed by it shall have the leave of this House to attend, if his Lordship thinks fit.

Messages between the two Houses.
22 March 1889.

26. One of the Clerks of either House may be the bearer of messages from the one to the other.

Debates

Lords to speak standing.
27 March 1621.

27. Every Lord is to speak standing and uncovered, except by permission of the House.

Speeches to be addressed to House.
27 March 1621.

28. When any Lords speak, they are to address their speech to the rest of the Lords in general.

Every Motion to be proposed from Woolsack or Chair before debate thereon and debate to be relevant to last Question proposed.
22 June 1908.

29. Every Motion, after it has been moved, shall be proposed from the Woolsack or the Chair before debate thereon. Debate must be relevant to the Question before the House, and, where more than one Question has been put, the debate must be relevant to the last Question so proposed until it has been disposed of.

No speaking after Question put.
9 January 1674.

30. When at the end of a debate the Question has been put, no Lord is to speak save on a point of order.

No Lord to speak more than once to a Motion.
27 March 1621.

31.—(1) No Lord is to speak more than once to any Motion, save only:

- (a) when the House is in Committee;
- (b) the mover of a Motion in reply;

(c) with the leave of the House, which may only be granted:

(i) to a Lord to explain himself in some material point of his speech (no new matter being introduced); or

(ii) to the Chairman of Committees, or in his absence a Deputy Chairman, the Chairman of a Select Committee on the report of such a Committee, or a Minister of the Crown.

(2) No Lord may speak more than once to any Question for Short Debate except, with the leave of the House, for the purpose of explaining himself in some material point of his speech (no new matter being introduced).

32. Leave of the House or of a Committee of the House must be unanimous in those cases where, if leave were granted, the House or Committee would be deprived of a Question which would otherwise have been put from the Woolsack or the Chair. In all other cases where leave is sought, it is granted by a majority of the House and the objection of a single Peer does not suffice to withhold it.

Leave of the House.
8 June 1971.

33. To prevent misunderstanding, and for avoiding of offensive speeches, when matters are debating, either in the House or at Committees, it is for honour sake thought fit, and so ordered, That all personal, sharp, or taxing speeches be forboren, and whosoever answereth another man's speech shall apply his answer to the matter without wrong to the person: and as nothing offensive is to be spoken, so nothing is to be ill taken, if the party that speaks it shall presently make a fair exposition or clear denial of the words that might bear any ill construction; and if any offence be given in that kind, as the House itself will be very sensible thereof, so it will sharply censure the offender, and give the party offended a fit reparation and a full satisfaction.

Asperity of speech to
be avoided.
13 June 1626.

34. For avoiding of all mistakes, unkindnesses, or other differences which may grow to quarrels, tending to the breach of peace, it is ordered, That if any Lord shall conceive himself to have received any affront or injury from any other Member of the House, either in the Parliament House, or at any Committee, or in any of the rooms belonging to the Lords House of Parliament, he shall appeal to the Lords in Parliament for his reparation; which, if he shall not do, but occasion or entertain quarrels, declining the justice of the House, then the Lord that shall be found therein delinquent shall undergo the severe censure of the Lords House of Parliament.

Quarrels, To prevent.
9 August 1641.

Oral Questions.
1 June 1954.

35. Questions to which a star is attached, indicating that they are asked for information only, may be placed on the Order Paper for any day on which the House is sitting other than a Friday. No debate may take place on such Questions, and supplementary questions must be confined to the subject of the original Question.

Private Notice
Questions and
Statements.
2 April 1868.

36. Questions of which private notice has been given may be asked, and Statements made, without notice given in the Order Paper, but these should not be made the occasion for immediate debate.

Questions for Short
Debate and Motions.
8 June 1971.

37. Questions which may give rise to discussion (known as Questions for Short Debate) and Motions of which notice is required shall appear on the Order Paper of the day on which they are to be taken.

Balloted and time-
limited Debates.
3 April 1973.

38.—(1) If a balloted debate or a time-limited debate is continuing at the end of the time allotted to it, the Clerk at the Table shall rise and thereupon the Lord Speaker shall ask the mover whether or not he wishes to withdraw his Motion. If the mover does not ask leave to withdraw, or if leave to withdraw is refused, the Lord Speaker shall put the Question forthwith.

(2) If an amendment is moved to a Motion which is the subject of a balloted debate or a time-limited debate, paragraph (1) shall have effect in relation to the amendment in like manner as it has in relation to the original Motion.

Consistency of
amendments.
22 June 1908.

39. An amendment to a Bill must not be inconsistent with a previous decision given on the same stage of the Bill.

Arrangement of Business

Order of Business.
26 March 1852.

40. Except as provided in Standing Order No. 43(3), the House shall proceed with the Notices and Orders of the Day in the order in which they stand in the Order Paper.

Arrangement of the
Order Paper.
1 June 1954.

41. Notices shall be entered in the Order Paper in the order in which they are received at the Table, provided that:

(1) Oral Questions shall be entered before other business.

(2) Notices relating to Private Business may be entered before Public Business. At the discretion of the Chairman of Committees they may also be entered later in the Order Paper.

(3) Subject to paragraph (1), notices relating to the Business of the House and to the Chairman of Committees' Business, if he so desires, shall have priority over other Public Business.

(4) On all sitting days except Thursdays, notices and orders relating to Public Bills, Measures, Affirmative Instruments and reports from Select Committees of the House shall have precedence over other notices and orders save the foregoing.

(5) On Thursdays, notices of Motions shall have precedence over notices and orders relating to Public Bills, Measures and delegated legislation.

(6) Any motion relating to a report from the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee on a draft order laid under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 shall be entered before a motion to approve that draft order.

(7) Any motion relating to a report from the Joint Committee on Human Rights on a remedial order or draft remedial order laid under Schedule 2 to the Human Rights Act 1998 shall be entered before a motion to approve that order or draft order.

(8) Subject to paragraphs (4) to (7) the precedence of notices and orders relating to Public Bills, Measures, Affirmative Instruments and reports from Select Committees of the House may be varied on any day, if the convenience of the House so requires.

(9) Questions for Short Debate shall be entered last.

42.—(1) Messages from the Crown may be delivered without notice at the beginning of a sitting or at any time during a sitting and may, upon Motion, be taken into consideration forthwith.

Business of which notice is not necessary.
1 June 1954.

(2) Messages from the House of Commons may be received at any time during a sitting without interruption of business.

(3) Bills may be presented either at the beginning or end of Public Business. Bills brought from the House of Commons may be read the First time at any convenient time during Public Business.

(4) Commons amendments to Bills and Commons Reasons may be considered without notice at any convenient time during Public Business.

(5) The Oath of Allegiance should be taken at the beginning of business after Prayers, or at the end of business before the adjournment.

(6) Other business of which notice is not necessary may be disposed of at any time by leave of the House.

Postponement and
advancement of
business.
26 March 1852.

43.—(1) A notice on the Order Paper may be withdrawn or postponed to a later date at the request of the Lord in whose name it stands, but except for Oral Questions and Questions for Short Debate no notice shall be advanced to an earlier date than that for which it had been set down, without the leave of the House obtained on a Motion of which notice must be given in the Order Paper.

(2) If a Lord be absent at the appointed time for the House to enter upon consideration of his Motion or Question, and has not authorised another Lord to take his place, it shall not be proceeded with until after notice thereof is renewed, unless unanimous leave is granted by the House.

(3) Business may, on motion, be postponed to later the same day without notice: provided that the Question shall not be put on any such motion if a single Lord objects.

Notices not to be
placed on Order Paper
more than one month
ahead.
23 July 1934.

44.—(1) No notice of a Question or Motion, other than a Motion relating to a Public Bill or Order, shall be put upon the Order Paper for a date more than one month ahead, but a Lord may give notice of a Motion or Question without fixing a date for the same.

(2) Except in the case of Oral Questions, the period of one month shall not include any time during which the House is in Recess.

Questions for written
answer.
1 June 1954.

45. A Question to which an answer in writing is desired may be placed on the Order Paper under the heading “For Written Answer”. The reply shall be printed in the Official Report.

Precedence of
adjourned business.
22 March 1889.

46. If at the close of the speech of any Lord it shall be moved that the business then in hand be adjourned, or, the House being in Committee, that the House be resumed, and it shall be so ordered, it shall be lawful for the House thereupon, without notice given, to make further order that the business in question shall be taken first, either at some later hour of the evening, or on some future sitting day to be then fixed.

Bills

47. No Bill shall be read twice the same day; no Committee of the Whole House shall proceed on any Bill the same day as the Bill has been read the Second time; no report shall be received from any Committee of the Whole House the same day such Committee goes through the Bill, when any amendments are made to such Bill; and no Bill shall be read the Third time the same day that the Bill is reported from the Committee, or the order of commitment is discharged.

No two stages of a Bill to be taken on one day.
28 June 1715.

48.—(1) After second reading, Bills are committed to a Committee on a Motion in the name of the Lord in charge of the Bill (except that in case of a Bill of Supply or a Bill certified by the Speaker as a Money Bill the House may order that the Bill be not committed).

Commitment of Bills.
27 March 1621.

(2) If, at the time appointed for the House to go into Committee on a Bill, no amendment has been set down and it appears that no Lord wishes to speak to the Bill or to table a manuscript amendment, the Lord in charge of the Bill may, having given notice, move, “That the order of commitment (or re-commitment) be discharged”: provided that the Question shall not be put on any such Motion if a single Lord objects.

49. No amendment, other than a privilege amendment, shall be moved upon the Third Reading of a Public Bill unless notice of the amendment has been given to the Clerk not later than the day preceding that on which the amendment is to be moved, in sufficient time to enable the amendment to be printed and circulated in the form in which it is to be moved.

Amendments on Third Reading.
8 July 1930.

50. When a Bill brought from the House of Commons shall have remained on the Table of this House for twelve sitting days without any Lord giving notice of the Second Reading thereof, such Bill shall not be further proceeded with in the same session, except after eight days’ notice given by a Lord of the Second Reading thereof.

Commons Bills, if not taken up in twelve sitting days, to be dropped and not to be further proceeded with except after eight days’ notice.
4 August 1871.

51.—(1) If a Public Bill is passed by the Commons and is carried up to the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments at a time when this House is not sitting, and if it is for the convenience of this House that copies of the Bill should be circulated before the Bill is read a First time, the Bill shall be deemed to have been brought from the Commons and the Clerk of the Parliaments shall

Printing of Bills brought from the Commons.
9 November 1961.

arrange for the printing and circulation of copies of the Bill and any Explanatory Notes thereto.

(2) Likewise, if a Public Bill is returned from the Commons with amendments or Reasons at a time when this House is not sitting, the Clerk of the Parliaments may, pursuant to this Standing Order, arrange for the printing and circulation of any such amendments and Reasons.

Joint Committee on
Consolidation Bills.
5 May 1971.

52. There shall be a Select Committee consisting of twelve Lords, who shall be appointed at the commencement of every session, to join with a Committee of the House of Commons as the Joint Committee on Consolidation etc. Bills, to which shall be referred:

(1) Consolidation Bills whether public or private;

(2) Statute Law Revision Bills;

(3) Bills prepared pursuant to the Consolidation of Enactments (Procedure) Act 1949, together with any memoranda laid pursuant to that Act and any representations made with respect thereto;

(4) Bills to consolidate any enactments with amendments to give effect to recommendations made by one or both of the Law Commissions together with any report containing such recommendations;

(5) Bills prepared by one or both of the Law Commissions to promote the reform of the Statute Law by the repeal, in accordance with Law Commission recommendations, of certain enactments which (except in so far as their effect is preserved) are no longer of practical utility, whether or not they make other provision in connection with the repeal of those enactments, together with any Law Commission report on any such Bill;

(6) any Affirmative Instrument which but for the provisions of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 would have been enacted by a Consolidation Bill, whether public or private, or by a Statute Law Revision Bill.

No clause to be
annexed to a Bill of
Aid or Supply foreign
to the matter.
9 December 1702.

53. The annexing of any clause or clauses to a Bill of Aid or Supply, the matter of which is foreign to and different from the matter of the said Bill of Aid or Supply, is unparliamentary and tends to the destruction of constitutional Government.

Divisions

54.—(1) When, on the Question being put, a division is called for, the Lord on the Woolsack or in the Chair shall order the Bar to be cleared. Two Tellers shall be appointed by the Contents and two by the Not-contents. After the lapse of three minutes from the time when the Bar is ordered to be cleared the Lord on the Woolsack or in the Chair shall again put the Question.

Divisions.
27 June 1865.

(2) If, after a lapse of three minutes from the time when the Bar is ordered to be cleared, Tellers have not been appointed either for the Contents or for the Not-contents, a division cannot take place. The Lord on the Woolsack or in the Chair shall declare the Question decided in favour of the side which has appointed Tellers.

(3) One Teller for the Contents and one for the Not-contents shall be appointed for each division lobby without respect to their degree; and Clerks shall be in attendance in each lobby to record the names of the Contents and Not-contents respectively; the Tellers shall count the votes and announce the numbers to the Lord on the Woolsack or in the Chair.

(4) After the lapse of eight minutes from the time when the Bar is ordered to be cleared, or longer at the discretion of the Lord on the Woolsack or in the Chair, the doors of the Chamber shall be locked, and the Lord on the Woolsack or in the Chair shall inform the House or the Committee of the Question which is the subject of the division.

(5) A Lord may vote in a division although he did not hear the Question put.

55. Any Lord may, on the ground of infirmity, have the privilege of being told in his seat; and the votes of such Lords and of the Lord on the Woolsack or in the Chair shall be taken first by the Clerk and notified to the Tellers on their return from the division lobbies.

Votes counted in the
House.
27 June 1865.

56. If any Lord shall have by mistake gone out with the Contents or Not-contents (as the case may be), having intended to vote on the other side, he shall wait until the other Lords in the same lobby shall have passed out, and on presenting himself to the Tellers desire that he may not be counted by them, he having entered that lobby by mistake; and the Tellers shall thereupon come with such Lord to the Table, and inform the House of the

Voting in wrong
lobby.
27 June 1865.

circumstances, and shall ask the said Lord whether he desires to vote Content or Not-content, and the vote of the said Lord as then declared by him shall be taken by the Tellers in the House, and recorded by them accordingly.

Equality of votes.
20 March 1951.

57.—(1) In relation to Bills and subordinate legislation the practice of the House is governed by the principle that no proposal to reject or amend a Bill or instrument in the form in which it is then before the House shall be agreed to unless there is a majority in favour of such rejection or amendment.

(2) Similarly no proposal to reject or amend any Motion relating to the stages of a Bill shall be agreed to unless there is a majority in favour of such rejection or amendment.

(3) In relation to all other matters the practice of the House is governed by the principle that the Question before the House shall be decided in the negative unless there is a majority in its favour.

(4) In this Standing Order “stages of a Bill” means First Reading, Second Reading, Committee of the Whole House, Report, Third Reading, Consideration of Commons Amendments and Consideration of Commons Reasons.

Quorum for division
on Bills and
subordinate
legislation.
22 March 1889.

58. If, on a division upon a Bill, or upon a Question for the approving or disapproving of subordinate legislation, less than thirty Lords have voted, the Lord Speaker shall declare the Question not decided, and the debate thereon shall stand adjourned to a subsequent sitting; and, if such division take place when the House is in Committee, the Chairman shall declare the Question not decided, whereupon the House shall resume, and shall be again in Committee at a subsequent sitting.

Division Lists.
27 June 1865.

59. Lists of the Lords voting, in which the names of Lords shall be inserted in alphabetical order, shall be entered in the Journals.

Protests.
5 March 1642.

60. Such Lords as shall make protestation, or enter their dissents to any votes of the House, as they have a right to do without asking leave of the House, either with or without their reasons, shall enter and sign their protestation or dissents in the Clerk’s book not later than the next sitting day.

Proxies not to be
revived.
31 March 1868.

61. The ancient practice of calling for proxies shall not be revived except upon the suspension of this Standing Order; and not less than two days’ notice shall be given of any Motion for such suspension.

Committees

62. The Lord nominated Chairman of Committees at the commencement of every session or, in his absence, a Deputy Chairman shall take the Chair in all Committees of the Whole House, and in all other Committees of the House, unless the House otherwise directs.

Chairman of
Committees.
3 July 1848.

63. To have more freedom of debate, and that arguments may be used (pro and contra), Committees of the Whole House are appointed, sometimes for Bills, sometimes to discuss matters of great moment. Whenever the House resolves itself into a Committee, the Lord Speaker leaves the Woolsack and he or the Lord Chairman of Committees presides over the Committee from the Chair; Standing Order No. 31 (No Lord to speak more than once to a Motion) shall not apply when the House is in Committee.

Committees of the
Whole House.
27 March 1621.

64.—(1) At the commencement of each session the House shall appoint a Committee of Selection consisting of the Chairman of Committees and such other Lords as the House shall name.

Committee of
Selection.
3 April 1973.

(2) The Committee of Selection shall select and propose to the House the names of the Lords to form each Select Committee of the House except the Committee of Selection itself, any Committee otherwise provided for by statute or by Order of the House and, unless the Chairman of Committees is of the opinion that the members of any such Committee should be appointed by the Committee of Selection or unless two or more members of that Committee request a meeting for that purpose, the following Committees:

- (a) Select Committees on Private Bills;
- (b) Select Committees on opposed Personal Bills;
- (c) Select Committees on opposed Provisional Order Confirmation Bills;
- (d) Joint Committees under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1936 (Lords members);
- (e) Joint Committees under the Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Act 1945 (Lords members).

(3) The Committee of Selection may propose to the House the name of the Lord to be Chairman of a Select Committee.

(4) In the absence of any Chairman appointed in pursuance of paragraph (3) of this Standing Order a Committee may appoint its own Chairman.

(5) The Committee of Selection shall select and propose to the House the names of the panel of Lords to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees for each session.

(6) The Committee of Selection shall also have power to select and propose to the House the names of the Lords to form any other body, not being a Select Committee, referred to it by the Chairman of Committees.

(7) The Chairman of Committees shall have discretion to propose to the House, without reference to the Committee of Selection, the names of Lords to fill casual vacancies occurring in the membership of Select Committees.

65. The orders of appointment of the following Committees and any of their Sub-Committees shall remain in force and effect, notwithstanding the prorogation of Parliament, until such time as the House or Committee makes further orders of appointment in the next succeeding session:

Administration and Works Committee
 Consolidation Bills Committee
 Constitution Committee
 Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee
 Economic Affairs Committee
 European Union Committee
 House Committee
 Human Rights Committee
 Hybrid Instruments Committee
 Information Committee
 Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee
 Personal Bills Committee
 Committee for Privileges
 Procedure Committee
 Refreshment Committee
 Science and Technology Committee
 Standing Orders (Private Bills) Committee
 Statutory Instruments Committee

Works of Art Committee.

- 66.** At a Select Committee of the House any Lord, though not of the Committee, is not excluded from coming in and speaking, but he must not attend any meeting while the Committee deliberate, unless invited by the Committee to do so, and he must not vote. All Lords may attend and speak, but not vote.
27 March 1621.
- 67.** A Select Committee shall call such evidence as it may require, but shall not hear parties by Counsel unless so authorised by Order of the House. Power to hear Counsel.
1 June 1954.
- 68.** Any Select Committee of the House shall have leave to confer and meet concurrently with any Committee or Sub-Committee of the Commons appointed to consider a similar matter, for the purpose of deliberating or taking evidence, and may communicate to any such Committee or Sub-Committee its evidence or any other documents relating to matters of common interest. Any Select Committee of the House shall also have leave to give this power to confer and meet concurrently to any Sub-Committee appointed by it. Concurrent meetings.
25 July 1991.
- 69.** Reports from Select Committees shall be laid on the Table and ordered to be printed. Notice shall be given on the Order Paper of the day on which the report is to be considered. Reports of Select Committees.
18 May 1865.

Parliamentary Papers

- 70.** If, during the existence of a Parliament, Papers are commanded to be presented to the House by Her Majesty at any time, the delivery of such Papers to the Clerk of the Parliaments shall be deemed to be for all purposes the presentation of them to the House. Presentation of Command Papers.
28 April 1902.
- 71.**—(1) Where, under any Act of Parliament, a Statutory Instrument is required to be laid before Parliament after being made, the deposit of a copy of the instrument with the Clerk of the Parliaments in accordance with this Order at any time during the existence of a Parliament when the House is not sitting for Public Business shall constitute the laying of it before the House: Laying of Statutory Instruments.
28 July 1948.
- Provided that nothing in this Order shall apply to any Special Procedure Order, to any Statutory Instrument which requires an affirmative resolution before it can come into operation, or to any other instrument which is required to be laid before Parliament for any period before it comes into operation.

(2) The Clerk of the Parliaments shall cause to be published, either in the Minutes of Proceedings or in some other manner, particulars of the deposit of Statutory Instruments under this Standing Order.

Notifications.
28 July 1948.

72. In cases where it has been necessary to bring a Statutory Instrument into operation before it has been laid before Parliament, the notification thereof (which is required by the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 to be sent to the Lord Speaker) shall be laid upon the Table of the House.

Affirmative
Instruments.
27 March 1975.

73.—(1) No Motion for a resolution of the House to approve an Affirmative Instrument shall be moved until:

(a) except in the case of a draft remedial order or remedial order laid under Schedule 2 to the Human Rights Act 1998, or a draft order proposed to be made under Part 1 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, or a subordinate provisions order made or proposed to be made under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001, there has been laid before the House the report thereon of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments;

(b) in the case of a draft order proposed to be made under Part 1 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, or a subordinate provisions order made or proposed to be made under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001, there has been laid before the House the report thereon of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee; and

(c) in the case of a draft remedial order or remedial order laid under Schedule 2 to the Human Rights Act 1998, there has been laid before the House the report thereon of the Joint Committee on Human Rights:

Provided that the report is laid

(i) in the case of a draft remedial order, within 60 days of the laying of the draft order or

(ii) in the case of an order not approved in draft, within 119 days of making the order,

such periods to be calculated in the manner prescribed by Schedule 2 to the Act; and

(d) in the case of a Hybrid Instrument, the proceedings under Private Business Standing Order 216 or 216A have been terminated.

(2) In this Standing Order “Affirmative Instrument” means an Order in Council, departmental order, rules, regulations, scheme or other similar instrument presented to or laid or laid in draft before the House where an affirmative resolution is required before it, or any part of it, becomes effective, or is made, or is a condition of its continuance in operation: but the expression does not include a Measure laid before the House under the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919 nor regulations made under Part 2 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

(3) An Order in Council that may not be made except in response to an address by the House to Her Majesty is an Affirmative Instrument within the meaning of this Standing Order, and a Motion for an address to Her Majesty praying that an order be made is a Motion to approve the order.

(4) An order, rules, regulations, scheme or instrument laid in draft before the House for the purpose of being approved by resolution of the House is an Affirmative Instrument within the meaning of this Standing Order notwithstanding that, if the draft is not approved, that instrument is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House.

Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

74. There shall be a Select Committee consisting of seven Lords, which shall join with a Committee of the House of Commons as the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments, to consider:

Joint Committee on
Statutory Instruments.
15 December 1997

(1) every instrument which is laid before each House of Parliament and upon which proceedings may be or might have been taken in either House of Parliament, in pursuance of an Act of Parliament; being

(i) a statutory instrument, or a draft of a statutory instrument;

(ii) a scheme, or an amendment of a scheme, or a draft thereof, requiring approval by statutory instrument;

(iii) any other instrument (whether or not in draft), where the proceedings in pursuance of an Act of Parliament are proceedings by way of an affirmative resolution; or

(iv) an Order subject to special parliamentary procedure; but excluding any remedial order or draft remedial order under Schedule 2 to the Human Rights Act 1998, and any draft order proposed to be made under Part 1 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 and any subordinate provisions order made or proposed to be made under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001; and

(2) every general statutory instrument not within the foregoing classes, and not required to be laid before or to be subject to proceedings in the Commons only; but not including any statutory instrument made by the Scottish Ministers or otherwise under an Act or Act of the Scottish Parliament or by the Welsh Ministers unless it is required to be laid before Parliament or either House of Parliament and not including Measures under the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919 and instruments made under such Measures;

with a view to determining whether the special attention of the House should be drawn to it on any of the following grounds—

(a) that it imposes a charge on the public revenues or contains provisions requiring payments to be made to the Exchequer or any government department or to any local or public authority in consideration of any licence or consent or of any services to be rendered, or prescribes the amount of any such charge or payments;

(b) that it is made in pursuance of any enactment containing specific provisions excluding it from challenge in the courts, either at all times or after the expiration of a specific period;

(c) that it purports to have retrospective effect where the parent statute confers no express authority so to provide;

(d) that there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in the publication or in the laying of it before Parliament;

(e) that there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in sending a notification under the proviso to subsection (1) of section 4 of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, where an Instrument has come into operation before it has been laid before Parliament;

(f) that there appears to be a doubt whether it is *intra vires* or that it appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the statute under which it is made;

(g) that for any special reasons its form or purport call for elucidation;

(h) that its drafting appears to be defective;

or on any other ground which does not impinge on its merits or on the policy behind it, and to report their decision with the reasons thereof in any particular case.

Public Petitions

75.—(1) No Petition, other than a Petition relating to Judicial or Private Business, shall be received, unless it is presented by a Lord and bears his signature.

Public Petitions.
24 June 1969.

(2) A Lord may present a Petition in person to the House, or may deposit it with the Clerk of the Parliaments, or may hand it in at the Table of the House.

(3) In presenting a Petition in person to the House, a Lord may only read out the Prayer of the Petition and state the number of Petitioners who have signed it.

(4) A Petition to which this Standing Order applies shall not be printed, unless a Lord gives notice of a Motion relating to it for a particular day.

Proceedings at opening and close of a Parliament or session

76.—(1) At the beginning of Parliament, after prayers shall have been said, the Lord Speaker shall take the oath appointed to be taken, according to the Act of Parliament made for that purpose, and then all the Peers and Lords of Parliament present shall in like manner take and subscribe the said oath.

Proceedings upon
opening the
Parliament.
27 March 1621.

(2) After Her Majesty's Speech from the Throne, some Bill (pro formâ) is to be read; which being done, the Lord Speaker is to report Her Majesty's Speech, and then the House shall proceed to nominate the Chairman of Committees.

(3) At the beginning of every other Session during the same Parliament, after prayers said, some Bill (pro formâ) is to be read, Her Majesty's Speech reported and the Chairman of Committees nominated.

Proroguing the
Parliament at close of
session.
27 March 1621.

77. If Her Majesty is not personally present to prorogue Parliament at the close of a session, such prorogation is not to be by Writ, but by Commission directed unto some of the Lords of the Upper House; and they, being in their robes and seated on a form placed between the Throne and Woolsack, are to command the Usher of the Black Rod to let the Commons know the Lords Commissioners desire their immediate attendance in the House of Peers, to hear the Commission read; and the Commons being come up to the Bar of this House and standing uncovered, the Commission is to be read by the Clerk, after which Parliament is to be prorogued in such manner, and to such time, as is commanded by the said Commission.

Committee for Privileges and claims of Peerage

Committee for
Privileges.
19 February 1957.

78. A Committee for Privileges shall be appointed at the beginning of every session; sixteen Lords shall be named of the Committee, together with any four Lords of Appeal; in any claim of Peerage, the Committee shall not sit unless three Lords of Appeal be present.

Claims of Peerage.
24 March 1767.

79. In claims of Peerage the following directions shall apply in regard to claims by Petition which have been referred to the Committee for Privileges:

(1) The Petitioner shall lodge his case, pedigree and proofs with the Clerk of the Parliaments within six weeks from the date of the presentation of his Petition to the House.

(2) Records and documents in public custody may be proved before the Committee by copies officially certified as in ordinary legal proceedings. The production of originals of such documents shall not be required except on an order of the Lord Speaker or Chairman of Committees.

Originals of records and documents in private custody, together with copies thereof, must be produced and proved before the Committee.

(3) In unopposed claims the record of the documentary evidence given before the Committee shall be examined by an examiner appointed by the Crown Agent. The Crown Agent may, if he think fit, similarly appoint an examiner in opposed claims. The cost of the examination shall be borne by the claimant.

(4) The fees to be charged shall be such as shall be authorised from time to time by the House.

80. A claim to any Peerage of Ireland shall be made by Petition to the House, which Petition shall be referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report upon to the House.

Claims of Irish
Peerages.
2 April 1802.

81.—(1) In case any Peerage of Ireland now is or hereafter shall be in abeyance, the persons claiming to be co-heirs thereto, or any of them, may, by Petition to the House, state such claim, and pray that the same may be examined by the House.

Claims of Irish
Peerages in abeyance.
2 April 1802.

(2) No claim of any Peerage of Ireland alleged to be in abeyance shall be proceeded upon until the same shall have been recommended by Her Majesty to the consideration of the House, or until Her Majesty shall have been informed of such claim by the House.

(3) Every such claim shall be referred to the Committee for Privileges to examine the matter and report the same, as it shall appear to them, to the House.

(4) In case it shall appear to the House that any such Peerage is in abeyance, the House shall inform Her Majesty that in the opinion of the House such Peerage, though in abeyance, is to be deemed and taken to be an existing Peerage, according to the Fourth Article of Union.

82. If in regard to a claim for the determination of an abeyance existing in a Peerage the Committee for Privileges is satisfied that any arrangement entered into between the Petitioner and any co-heir is tainted with any impropriety, the Committee shall make no report to the House except that such arrangement is not shown to have been a proper one.

Report of Committee
for Privileges if
improper arrangement
entered into between
co-heirs.
1 June 1954.

Privilege

Freedom from arrest.
18 April 1626.

83. The privilege of the House is that, when Parliament is sitting, or within the usual times of privilege of Parliament, no Lord of Parliament is to be imprisoned or restrained without sentence or order of the House, unless upon a criminal charge or for refusing to give security for the peace. Notification of any order whatsoever for the imprisonment or restraint of a Lord of Parliament should be given to the House by the Court or authority ordering such restraint or imprisonment.

Minor Peers, etc.,
have no privilege.
21 February 1693.

84. Privilege of Parliament shall not be allowed to minor Peers, Noblewomen, or widows of Peers; and if the widow of any Peer shall be married to a commoner, she shall not be allowed privilege of Peerage.

Concerning
examining witnesses
in perpetuum rei
memoriam.
3 July 1678.

85. In all cases wherein it is necessary to examine witnesses in perpetuum rei memoriam, it shall not be taken to be a breach of privilege of Parliament to file a Bill against a Peer in time of Parliament, and take out usual process for that purpose only.

No oath to take away
the privilege of
Peerage.
30 April 1675.

86. No oath shall be imposed by any Bill or otherwise upon Peers with a penalty in case of refusal to lose their places and votes in Parliament or liberty of debate therein.

Judicial Business

Appellate and Appeal
Committees.
20 May 1970.

87.—(1) For the purposes of its appellate jurisdiction, the House shall have Appellate and Appeal Committees, of which all Lords qualified under the Appellate Jurisdiction Acts 1876 and 1887 shall be members.

(2) These Committees shall be:

(a) two Appellate Committees, which shall hear any cause or matter referred to them and shall report thereon to the House;

(b) two Appeal Committees, which shall consider any Petition or application for leave to appeal that may be referred to them and any matter relating thereto, or to causes depending, or formerly depending, in this House, and shall report thereon to the House.

(3) In any criminal matter, or in any matter concerning extradition, an Appeal Committee may take decisions and give directions on behalf of the House.

(4) In any Appellate or Appeal Committee the Chair shall be taken by the senior Lord of Appeal in Ordinary present, such seniority being determined in accordance with the Commission for the time being appointing Speakers for the purpose of the hearing and determination of Appeals.

(5) For the purposes of section 8 of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876, any Appellate Committee may sit and act while Parliament is prorogued.

Making or suspending of Standing Orders

88. No Motion shall be granted for making any new Standing Order, or for dispensing with a Standing Order of the House, unless notice shall have been given in the Order Paper to consider the said Motion:

Standing Orders not to be made or dispensed with without notice.
28 April 1699.

Provided that on an occasion of grave national emergency the House may, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 47, resolve without notice that it is essential for reasons of national security that a Bill (or Bills) should immediately be proceeded with and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 47 should be dispensed with to enable the House to proceed that day with every stage of a Bill (or Bills) which it thinks necessary; and if the Clerk shall have read Standing Orders Nos. 47 and 88 at the Table and the Motion for the said resolution shall have been then agreed to, any such Bill may be passed through all its stages on that day.

APPENDIX

The Act 31° Hen. 8. c. 10

FOR PLACING OF THE LORDS*

FORASMUCH as in all great Councils and Congregations of Men having sundry Degrees and Offices in the Commonwealth, it is very requisite and convenient that an Order should be had and taken for the placing and sitting of such Persons as been bounden to resort to the same, to the Intent, that they, knowing their Places, may use the same without displeasure, or let of the Council; therefore, the King's Most Royal Majesty, although it appertaineth unto His Prerogative Royal to give such Honour, Reputation, and placing to his Councillors, and other His Subjects, as shall be seeming to His most Excellent Wisdom is, nevertheless, pleased and contented, for an Order to be had and taken in this His most High Court of Parliament, that it shall be enacted, by Authority of the same, in Manner and Form as hereafter followeth.

First, it is enacted by authority aforesaid, That no person or persons, of what estate, degree, or condition soever he or they be of (except only the King's children), shall at any time hereafter attempt or presume to sit or have place at any side of the Cloth of Estate in the Parliament Chamber, neither of the one hand of the King's Highness, nor of the other, whether the King's Majesty be there personally present or absent.

None shall sit on either side of the Cloth of Estate (except only the King's children).

II. And, forasmuch, as the King's Majesty is justly and lawfully Supreme Head in Earth under God of the Church of England....

Place of King's Vice-gerent in ecclesiastical jurisdiction. [Repealed 1948.]

III. And it is also enacted, That next to the said Vice-gerent shall sit the Archbishop of Canterbury; and then next to him, on the same form and side, shall sit the Archbishop of York; and next to him, on the same form and side, the Bishop of London; and next to him, on the same side and form, the Bishop of Durham; and next to him, on the same side and form, the Bishop of Winchester; and then all the other Bishops of both Provinces of Canterbury and York, shall sit and be placed on the same side, after their ancienties, as it hath been accustomed.

Placing of the Archbishops and Bishops.

* This was ordered to be added to the Book of Standing Orders by way of Appendix, 9 February 1825.

Also of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer, the Lord President of the Council, and the Lord Privy Seal.

IV. And, forasmuch as such other Personages which now have and hereafter shall happen to have other great offices of the Realm; that is to say, the offices of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer, the Lord President of the King's most Honourable Council, the Lord Privy Seal, the Great Chamberlain of England, the Constable of England, the Marshal of England, the Lord Admiral, the Grand Master, or Lord Steward, of the King's most Honourable Household, the King's Chamberlain, and the King's Secretary, have not heretofore been appointed and ordered for the placing and sitting in the King's most High Court of Parliament, by reason of their Offices: It is, therefore, now ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer, the Lord President of the King's Council, and the Lord Privy Seal, being of the degree of Barons of Parliament, or above, shall sit and be placed, as well in this present Parliament as in all other Parliaments hereafter to be holden, on the left side of the said Parliament Chamber, on the higher part of the form of the same side, above all Dukes, except only such as shall happen to be the King's son, the King's brother, the King's uncle, the King's nephew, or the King's brothers' or sisters' sons.

Also of the Great Chamberlain, the Constable, the Marshal, the Lord Admiral, the Lord Steward and the King's Chamberlain.

V. And it is also ordained and enacted by authority aforesaid, That the Great Chamberlain, the Constable, the Marshal, the Lord Admiral, the Great Master, or Lord Steward, and the King's Chamberlain shall sit and be placed after the Lord Privy Seal in manner and form following; that is to say, every of them shall sit and be placed above all other personages, being of the same estates and degrees that they shall happen to be; that is to say, the Great Chamberlain first, the Constable next, the Marshal third, the Lord Admiral the fourth, the Grand Master or Lord Steward the fifth, and the King's Chamberlain the sixth.

And the King's Chief Secretary being a Baron.

VI. And it is also enacted by authority aforesaid, That the King's Chief Secretary, being of the degree of a Baron of the Parliament, shall sit and be placed afore and above all Barons not having any of the offices aforementioned; and if he be a Bishop, that then he shall sit and be placed above all other Bishops not having any of the offices above remembered.

Dukes, Marquesses, Earls, Viscount and Barons to be placed after their ancienty.

VII. And it is also ordained and enacted by authority aforesaid, That all Dukes not aforementioned, Marquesses, Earls, Viscounts, and Barons, not having any of the offices aforesaid, shall sit and be placed after their ancienty, as it hath been accustomed.

VIII. And it is further enacted, That if any person or persons which at any time hereafter shall happen to have any of the said offices of Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, Lord President of the King's Council, Lord Privy Seal, or Chief Secretary, shall be under the degree of a Baron of the Parliament, by reason whereof they can have no interest to give any assent or dissent in the said House, that then, in every such case, such of them as shall happen to be under the said degree of a Baron shall sit and be placed at the uppermost part of the sacks, in the midst of the said Parliament Chamber, either there to sit upon one form or upon the uppermost sack, the one of them above the other in order as is above rehearsed.

Places of Great Officers under the degree of a Baron.

IX. ...

Places in Trial by Peers.
[Repealed 1948.]

X. And be it also enacted by authority aforesaid, That as well in all Parliaments as in all other Assemblies and Conferences of Council, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Great Chamberlain, the Constable, the Marshal, the Lord Admiral, the Grand Master, or Lord Steward, the King's Chamberlain, and the King's Chief Secretary shall sit and be placed in such order and fashion as is above rehearsed and not in any other place, by authority of this present Act.

Places of Great Officers in other Assemblies.

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*Standing
Order No.*

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