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Provide for the Secretary of State to draw up a plan to prohibit piped music and the showing of television programmes in the public areas of hospitals; and to require the wearing of headphones by persons listening to music in the public areas of hospitals.

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 Piped music and showing of television programmes plan

- (1) The Secretary of State shall, within two years of the coming into force of this Act, draw up a plan setting out the measures he will take to—
- (a) prohibit piped music and the showing of television programmes in the public areas of hospitals; and 5
 - (b) require the wearing of headphones by persons listening to music in the public areas of hospitals; 5
- in the United Kingdom.
- (2) In preparing the plan the Secretary of State shall consult—
- (a) such organisations as appear to him to represent the interests of users of, and workers in, hospitals; and 10
 - (b) such other persons as he thinks fit.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall—
- (a) as soon as is practicable after completion of the plan, lay the plan before each House of Parliament; and 15
 - (b) consider any matters arising from any debate that takes place in either House of Parliament on the plan.

2 Exceptions

- The plan under section 1 shall provide exceptions for—
- (a) television programmes shown for the purpose of safeguarding the welfare of users of hospitals; 20

- (b) such other showings of television programmes in the public areas of hospitals as the Secretary of State considers to be in the public interest.

3 Interpretation

In this Act –

“piped music” means pre-recorded background music played through loudspeakers; 5

“public areas of hospitals” means the areas of hospitals to which the public or a section of the public have access, but does not include in-patient wards.

4 Citation and extent

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- (1) This Act may be cited as the Piped Music etc. (Hospitals) Act 2007.
(2) This Act extends to Northern Ireland.

Piped Music etc. (Hospitals) Bill [HL]

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Lord Beaumont of Whitley

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