

Non-Domestic Rating Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN GRAND COMMITTEE

After Clause 15

BARONESS PINNOCK

After Clause 15, insert the following new Clause –

“Non-domestic rating: impact assessment

- (1) The Secretary of State must publish an impact assessment concerning the provisions contained in this Act.
- (2) The impact assessment must consider the impact of –
 - (a) a three-yearly revaluation on the overall level of business rates revenue collected by local authorities;
 - (b) a three-yearly revaluation on business rates revenue of different local authorities;
 - (c) a three-yearly revaluation on the financial resilience of local authorities;
 - (d) the duty on ratepayers to provide information to the Valuation Office Agency set out in section 13 (requirements for ratepayers etc to provide information);
 - (e) the Act on the resources and capacity required by the Valuation Office Agency;
 - (f) temporary rate relief provided for by the Act on the United Kingdom’s net-zero targets.
- (3) The impact assessment must be laid before Parliament within 90 days of the passing of this Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to publish an impact assessment of the provisions contained in the Bill within 90 days of royal assent.

BARONESS PINNOCK
LORD SHIPLEY

After Clause 15, insert the following new Clause –

“Valuation Office Agency performance targets

- (1) The Secretary of State must within three months of the date on which this Act is passed prescribe by regulations performance targets for the Valuation Office Agency to respond to requests for updates to the central and local non-domestic rating lists and to challenges to the valuations on those lists.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument require the Valuation Office Agency to report at least annually on its performance against targets under subsection (1) in such detail as the Secretary of State may require in or by virtue of those regulations.
- (3) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament any reports made under subsection (2).
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (1) may not come into force until the impact assessment required by section (*Non-domestic rating: impact assessment*) has been laid before Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require annual reports from the VOA on its performance against targets to be set by the Secretary of State.

LORD SHIPLEY

After Clause 15, insert the following new Clause –

“Non-domestic rating: accreditation of non-domestic rating advisors

- (1) Within 90 days of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must commence a consultation on the merits and practicability of a system of accreditation and the introduction of professional standards for non-domestic rating advisors.
- (2) The consultation must consider the benefits of introducing a criminal or financial penalty for failing to comply with accreditation and adhering to professional standards.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, a “non-domestic rating advisor” is defined as any person providing or attempting to provide rating advice on a commercial basis to the occupier of a non-domestic premises.
- (4) In carrying out the consultation under subsection (1) the Secretary of State must consult with the following non-exhaustive list of stakeholders –
 - (a) professional surveying bodies;

- (b) small and medium-sized business representatives;
 - (c) local authorities.
- (5) The Secretary of State must lay the findings of this consultation before both Houses of Parliament within one year of the commencement of the consultation.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to consult on the benefits and practicability of a system of accreditation for rating advisors. This amendment is seeking to explore an avenue to combating the rogue and unprofessional practices of some rating advisors.

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