

[AS INTRODUCED]

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TO

Amend the law regarding succession to peerages and baronetcies; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King'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 Succession to hereditary peerages and baronetcies

- (1) No person is unable to succeed to a hereditary peerage or baronetcy on the ground that she is a woman or that she or he claims through a woman.
- (2) Upon the death of a peer or baronet, his or her peerage or baronetcy vests in the person who is the heir to that peerage or baronetcy in accordance with the instrument creating that peerage or baronetcy or, if there is no instrument, the law as to succession to that peerage or baronetcy, subject to subsections (3) and (4). 5
- (3) Any daughter and her issue are treated for the purpose of succession as they would be treated if the daughter were male, save as provided by subsection (4). 10
- (4) Within each group of siblings, males in order of birth and their issue are entitled to succeed before females in order of birth and their issue.

2 Peerages and baronetcies in abeyance

Any peerage or baronetcy which is in abeyance on the date of commencement of this Act vests in the person in whom it would have been vested on that date if section 1 had been in force on and at all times after the date at which it last fell into abeyance. 15

3 Extinct peerages

- (1) For any peerage which became extinct on or after 6 February 1952, the peerage will upon the commencement of this Act vest in the person who would have succeeded to that peerage if the section 1 had applied to that peerage at all times on and after 6 February 1952. 20

- (2) A person to whom subsection (3) applies may petition His Majesty to direct that subsection (1) should apply to that peerage as if it had become extinct on 6 February 1952, and His Majesty may grant or not grant the prayer of such a petition as He sees fit.
- (3) This subsection applies to any person in whose case both of the following conditions are met—
- (a) he or she would have succeeded to a peerage which became extinct before 6 February 1952 if the provisions in section 1 had applied to that peerage on the day it became extinct and at all times since that day; and
 - (b) he or she would have so succeeded on or after 6 February 1952.
- (4) No person may petition in accordance with subsection (2) after the first anniversary of the commencement of this Act.
- (5) If His Majesty grants the prayer to a petition as provided in subsection (2), the peerage concerned vests in the petitioner and the succession to that peerage will be governed by the provisions in section 1.
- (6) His Majesty’s decision responding to the prayer to a petition under subsection (2) and the consequences of that decision as provided in subsection (5) cannot be appealed, nor does any court have jurisdiction to entertain any related challenge or question.

4 Interpretation, extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act does not affect the succession to the Crown or to any peerages, baronetcies or other dignities or things whatsoever held by His Majesty.
- (2) This Act does not affect the succession to land or any other property real or personal.
- (3) This Act does not affect any succession to a peerage which took place before its commencement.
- (4) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (5) This Act comes into force on the day it is passed.
- (6) This Act may be cited as the Succession to Peerages and Baronetcies Act 2024.

Succession to Peerages and Baronetcies Bill [HL]

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Lord Northbrook

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