

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

B I L L

TO

Ensure that people in wheelchairs are able to access all public buildings via ramps or other measures; 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 Wheelchair access to public buildings

- (1) Owners of public buildings, and relevant private buildings as defined in subsection (2), must provide wheelchair access within the period of three years beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to privately owned buildings where any constituent part is publicly accessible. 5
- (3) In this Act, “wheelchair” does not include any mobility scooters which can legally be driven on the road.
- (4) The Secretary of State must make regulations by statutory instrument for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this section within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed. 10
- (5) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this Act may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

2 Amendment to the Equality Act 2010

15

After section 20(9) of the Equality Act 2010 (duty to make adjustments) insert—

“(9A) Reasonable steps taken under the second requirement include the introduction of a ramp, suitable for wheelchair access, in substitution for a single access step with a height lower than twelve inches or multiple steps if the total height is lower than twelve inches.” 20

3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, and Scotland.

- (2) This section and section 1 come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) Section 2 comes into force at the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Wheelchair Access Act 2024.

Wheelchair Access Bill [HL]

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

B I L L

TO

Ensure that people in wheelchairs are able to access all public buildings via ramps or other measures; and for connected purposes.

Lord Blencathra

Ordered to be Printed, 4th December 2023.

© Parliamentary copyright House of Lords 2023

This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS