

House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

*Tabled up to and including
13 December 2024*

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

Clause 1

LORD LUCAS

Leave out Clause 1 and insert the following new Clause –

“By-elections and life peerages for hereditary peer vacancies

- (1) Section 2 of the House of Lords Act 1999 (exception to exclusion of hereditary peers from membership of House of Lords) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (2), after “time” insert “no more than”.
- (3) For subsection (4), substitute –
 - “(4) In any case where a person excepted from section 1 dies or ceases to be a member of the House of Lords, an election must be held in which anyone on the register of electors anywhere in the United Kingdom may stand, and in which all members of the House of Lords may vote.
 - (4A) Any person selected as a result of an election held under subsection (4) must be recommended by the Prime Minister for a life peerage.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe whether hereditary peer vacancies could be filled by members of the public who would be elected by members of the House and recommended to the Prime Minister for a life peerage.

After Clause 1

LORD NEWBY
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Duty to take forward proposals for democratic mandate for House of Lords

- (1) It is the duty of the Secretary of State to take forward proposals to secure a democratic mandate for the House of Lords.
- (2) In pursuance of the duty under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must carry out the steps set out in subsections (3), (4), (5) and (6).
- (3) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament a consultation paper on methods for introducing directly elected members in the House of Lords.
- (4) After laying the consultation paper under subsection (3), the Secretary of State must seek the views on the matters covered by that paper of –
 - (a) each party and group in the House of Lords,
 - (b) each political party represented in the House of Commons,
 - (c) the Scottish Government,
 - (d) the Welsh Government,
 - (e) the Northern Ireland Executive,
 - (f) local authorities in the United Kingdom,
 - (g) representative organisations for local authorities in the United Kingdom, and
 - (h) such other persons and bodies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (5) Within 16 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament a report on responses to the consultation.
- (6) Within 18 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament a draft Bill containing legislative proposals on the matter mentioned in subsection (3).”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause imposes a duty on Ministers to take forward proposals to secure a democratic mandate for the House of Lords through introduction of directly elected members.

LORD NEWBY
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Life peerages not to be conferred against recommendation of the House of Lords Appointments Commission

- (1) The Life Peerages Act 1958 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 1 (power to confer life peerages), after subsection (1) insert –
 - “(1A) The power under subsection (1) may not be exercised in relation to a person if the House of Lords Appointments Commission has written to the Prime Minister to recommend that a peerage should not be conferred on that person.””

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would prevent a life peerage being conferred on a person if the House of Lords Appointments Commission has recommended against the appointment.

LORD HARRIES OF PENTREGARTH

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“15 year terms for life peers

- (1) A member of the House of Lords who has sat in the House by virtue of a life peerage for 15 years or more ceases to be a member of the House of Lords at the end of that Session of Parliament, subject to subsection (2).
- (2) A member of the House of Lords who has sat in the House by virtue of a life peerage for 15 years or more may apply to the House of Lords Appointments Commission for reappointment for a further five or more years up to a maximum of 15 years, but no member may sit in the House of Lords by virtue of a life peerage for more than 30 years in total.”

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Retirement from the House of Lords at 80

A member of the House of Lords who reaches the age of 80 during a Session of Parliament ceases to be a member of the House of Lords at the end of that Session.”

Member's explanatory statement

Alongside other amendments in the name of Lord Blencathra, this amendment has been tabled to permit the House to vote on three options for a retirement age in ascending order.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Retirement from the House of Lords at 85

A member of the House of Lords who reaches the age of 85 during a Session of Parliament ceases to be a member of the House of Lords at the end of that Session.”

Member's explanatory statement

Alongside other amendments in the name of Lord Blencathra, this amendment has been tabled to permit the House to vote on three options for a retirement age in ascending order.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Retirement from the House of Lords at 90

A member of the House of Lords who reaches the age of 90 during a Session of Parliament ceases to be a member of the House of Lords at the end of that Session.”

Member's explanatory statement

Alongside other amendments in the name of Lord Blencathra, this amendment has been tabled to permit the House to vote on three options for a retirement age in ascending order.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Attendance requirement of 20%

A member of the House of Lords who attended fewer than 20% of possible sittings in the 2019–2024 Parliament must retire from the House of Lords within two months of the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

Alongside other amendments in the name of Lord Blencathra, this amendment has been tabled to permit the House to vote on three options for requiring peers who have made little recent contribution to the work of the House to retire.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Attendance requirement of 15%

A member of the House of Lords who attended fewer than 15% of possible sittings in the 2019–2024 Parliament must retire from the House of Lords within two months of the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

Alongside other amendments in the name of Lord Blencathra, this amendment has been tabled to permit the House to vote on three options for requiring peers who have made little recent contribution to the work of the House to retire.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Attendance requirement of 10%”

A member of the House of Lords who attended fewer than 10% of possible sittings in the 2019–2024 Parliament must retire from the House of Lords within two months of the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

Alongside other amendments in the name of Lord Blencathra, this amendment has been tabled to permit the House to vote on three options for requiring peers who have made little recent contribution to the work of the House to retire.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“House of Lords participation requirement”

- (1) Standing Orders may make provision for a member to cease to be a member of the House of Lords if they have not met a reasonable level of participation based on requirements other than attendance.
- (2) A peer who does not meet the level of participation required may be notified and given six months to do so before the provision set out in subsection (1) takes effect.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is intended to ensure that members who attend but then say or do little or nothing are removed from the House. The intention would be for the Procedure Committee to devise criteria which would measure the participation of peers.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Removal of peers with a criminal conviction”

Any peer convicted of a criminal offence on indictment ceases to be a member of the House of Lords within seven days of the conviction, or the loss of appeal if the peer appeals the conviction.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment intends to ensure that peers who have committed a serious offence are removed from the House, using an indictable offence to provide a clear threshold.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Legislating for changes to the composition of the House of Lords

Where a resolution of the House of Lords establishes or changes—

- (a) the age at which peers must retire,
 - (b) a minimum attendance requirement,
 - (c) participation criteria, or
 - (d) a type of criminal conviction which results in expulsion from the House,
- the Secretary of State must, within 12 months, lay a draft bill before Parliament setting out the content of that resolution in statute.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to establish changes regarding the composition of the House in law, while allowing the House flexibility to change them. It requires a draft Bill to be introduced (rather than a Bill) to avoid binding the Houses' hands.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Lords spiritual

- (1) A maximum of five Church of England bishops may sit in the House of Lords.
- (2) Of those five bishops, one must be the Archbishop of Canterbury, one must be the Archbishop of York, and the remaining three must be nominated by the Synod of the Church of England.
- (3) No bishop may sit in the House of Lords beyond the end of the Parliamentary Session in which they turn 70 years old.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment reduces the number of bishops sitting in the House of Lords from 26 to five.

LORD BLENCATHRA

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Lords Spiritual and faith representatives

- (1) A maximum of five Church of England bishops may sit in the House of Lords.

- (2) Of those five bishops, one must be the Archbishop of Canterbury, one must be the Archbishop of York, and the remaining three must be nominated by the Synod of the Church of England.
- (3) There must be five other faith representatives appointed as members of the House of Lords, namely –
 - (a) a representative of the Roman Catholic Church,
 - (b) a representative of the Methodist Church,
 - (c) a person nominated by the Chief Rabbi,
 - (d) a person nominated by the Muslim Council of Britain, and
 - (e) a person nominated by the Free Churches Group.
- (4) No person who is a member of the House of Lords by virtue of this section may sit in the House of Lords beyond the end of the Parliamentary Session in which they turn 70 years old.
- (5) If the House of Lords agrees a resolution to change the numbers or denominations set out in this section the Secretary of State must, within 12 months, lay a draft bill before Parliament reflecting the content of that resolution.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment reduces the number of bishops sitting in the House of Lords and requires the inclusion of other faith representatives. It requires a draft Bill to be introduced (rather than a Bill) to avoid binding the Houses' hands.

Clause 4

LORD BLENCATHRA

- ★ Clause 4, page 2, line 16, leave out “Session of”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove Exempted Hereditary peers over a longer timescale, to permit the House to benefit from their input while giving them more time to seek alternative employment.

LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM

- Clause 4, page 2, line 16, after “Parliament”, insert “after the Session”

Member's explanatory statement

The purpose of the amendment is to postpone implementation of the Act.

LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM

- Clause 4, page 2, line 19, leave out “that Session” and insert “the Session following the Session in which this Act is passed”

Member's explanatory statement

The purpose of the amendment is to postpone implementation of the Act.

Clause 5

LORD NEWBY
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

Clause 5, page 2, line 21, after “Peers” insert “and Proposals for a Democratic Mandate”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would change the short title of the Bill and is consequential on Lord Newby's new Clause after Clause 1 “Duty to take forward proposals for democratic mandate for House of Lords”.

LORD NEWBY
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

Clause 5, page 2, line 21, after “Peers” insert “and Appointments”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would change the short title of the Bill and is consequential on Lord Newby's new Clause after Clause 1 “Life peerages not to be conferred against recommendation of the House of Lords Appointments Commission.”

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