

House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

*Tabled up to and including
7 February 2025*

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

Before Clause 1

LORD TRUE

Before Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to end the connection between the possession of a hereditary peerage and obtaining membership of the House of Lords.”

Clause 1

THE EARL OF DEVON

Clause 1, page 1, line 1, at end insert—

“(A1) In section 1 of the House of Lords Act 1999 (exclusion of hereditary peers), at end insert “, except for a child or grandchild of the Sovereign”.”

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment invites the House to consider the role of the hereditary principle within Parliament and our constitution in the context of membership of the House of Lords.

LORD STRATHCLYDE
LORD NORTHBROOK
VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

Clause 1, page 1, line 1, at end insert –

“(A1) In section 1 of the House of Lords Act 1999 (exclusion of hereditary peers), at end insert “except for the Earl Marshal and the Lord Great Chamberlain”.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would retain the Earl Marshal and the Lord Great Chamberlain as members of the House of Lords with the right to sit and vote.

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.

LORD LUCAS

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Lucas to Leave out Clause 1

In subsection (3), inserted subsection (4), after “stand” insert “if they have been recommended in accordance with procedures to be determined by the House of Lords by a member of the Council of the Nations and the Regions”

LORD TRUE
BARONESS FINN

Leave out Clause 1 and insert the following new Clause –

“Exclusion of remaining hereditary peers

- (1) Section 2 of the House of Lords Act 1999 (exception from section 1) is amended as follows.
- (2) For subsection (2) substitute –
 “(2) No more than 89 people at any one time shall be excepted from section 1.”
- (3) For subsection (4) substitute –
 “(4) Any vacancy resulting from the death, retirement, resignation or expulsion of an excepted person under subsection (2) after the day on which the House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Act 2024 comes into force is not to be filled by further exception.””

Member's explanatory statement

The purpose of the amendment is to prevent any more hereditary peers coming to the House of Lords by virtue of the 1999 Act in future. However, it allows peers who are already serving the House to remain as members for life in the same way as is allowed to all other Lords Temporal.

After Clause 1

LORD NEWBY
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE
LORD STRATHCLYDE

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
BARONESS GARDEN OF FROGNAL

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.”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Harries of Pentregarth to After Clause 1

In subsection (2) at beginning insert “Until the conclusion of the Parliament in which this Act is passed but not beyond,”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Harries of Pentregarth to After Clause 1

In subsection (2) leave out from “five” to end and insert “years”

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. According to analysis of Library figures, this could remove 327 peers by 2029.

LORD BLENCATHRA
VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

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. According to analysis of Library figures, this could remove 185 peers by 2029.

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. According to analysis of Library figures, this could remove 78 peers by 2029.

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. According to analysis of Library figures, requiring a minimum attendance of 20% of sittings between 2019 and 2024 could remove 154 peers.

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. According to analysis of Library figures, requiring a minimum attendance of 15% of sittings between 2019 and 2024 could remove 118 peers.

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. According to analysis of Library figures, requiring a minimum attendance of 10% of sittings between 2019 and 2024 could remove 70 peers.

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Blencathra to After Clause 1

After “who” insert “, in the absence of good reason or other special circumstances or having been granted leave of absence,”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Blencathra to After Clause 1

Leave out “10%” and insert “1%”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Blencathra to After Clause 1

After “Parliament” insert “for which that peer was eligible to attend”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Blencathra to After Clause 1

At end insert—

- “(2) Subject to subsection (3) a member of the House of Lords who without good cause attends fewer than 10% of the sittings of a Parliament after the Parliament in which this Act is passed for which that peer was qualified to attend must retire at the conclusion of that period.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the House of Lords resolves that there was good cause for that peer’s non-attendance.”

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.

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Blencathra to After Clause 1

In subsection (1) after “if” insert “, not having been granted leave of absence and in the absence of other good reason,”

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.

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Blencathra to After Clause 1

After “indictment” insert “and who has received an immediate custodial sentence or a suspended sentence of more than six months”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Blencathra to After Clause 1

Leave out “conviction” and insert “sentence being handed down”

LORD BLENCATHRA
Revised version of the amendment printed on 13 December 2024

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

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

- (1) 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) a participation requirement, or
 - (d) a type of criminal conviction which results in expulsion from the House,a relevant Minister must, within 12 months, take the action set out in subsection (2).
- (2) Where a resolution is passed by the House of Lords in accordance with subsection (1) (a “relevant resolution”), a relevant Minister must, by regulations made by statutory instrument, amend this Act in order to translate the relevant resolution into statute.
- (3) The regulations must use the wording of the relevant resolution, without any alteration.
- (4) The relevant Ministers are the Leader of the House of Lords and the Leader of the House of Commons, by whatever titles they are then known.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament”

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.

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

Revised version of the amendment printed on 17 December 2024

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 Muslim cleric nominated by the Home Office, 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, a relevant Minister must, within 12 months, take the action set out in subsection (6).
- (6) Where a resolution is passed by the House of Lords in accordance with subsection (5) (a “relevant resolution”), a relevant Minister must, by regulations made by statutory instrument, amend subsections (1) to (3) of this section accordingly.
- (7) The regulations must use the wording of the relevant resolution, without any alteration.
- (8) The relevant Ministers are the Leader of the House of Lords and the Leader of the House of Commons, by whatever titles they are then known.
- (9) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.”

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.

LORD LUCAS
LORD BLENCATHRA
LORD TRUE

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Rights of life peers to sit in the House of Lords

- (1) Section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958 (power to confer life peerages) is amended as follows.
- (2) At the end of subsection (1) insert “, and, as the case may be, the incidents specified in subsection (2A) of this section”.
- (3) Omit from “and” in subsection (2)(a) to the end of subsection (2)(b).
- (4) After subsection (2), insert –
 - “(2A) A peerage conferred under this section may, if the letters patent so state, during the life of the person on whom it is conferred, entitle him, subject to subsection (4) of this section, to receive writs of summons to attend the House of Lords and sit and vote therein accordingly, and shall expire on his death.”

LORD LUCAS
VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“No majority for one party in the House of Lords

After section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958, insert –

“1A No majority for one party in the House of Lords

- (1) An appointment may not be made to the House of Lords if it would have the effect of taking the total number of peers from parties forming part of the government to more than 40% of the total members of that House.
- (2) If at any time the number of peers from parties forming part of the government exceeds 40% of the total members of the House of Lords, no appointments to the parties forming part of the Government may be made until that number is reduced below 40% either by resignation, new appointments or leave of absence.”

LORD LUCAS

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Declaration of minimum attendance

Leave out section 2 of the House of Lords Reform Act 2014, and insert—

“2 Commitment to attend a minimum number of days

- (1) At the start of each Session of Parliament, a member of the House of Lords who is a peer must sign a declaration of intent to attend more than a certain proportion of sitting days during that Session.
- (2) The proportion of sitting days in subsection (1) is to be determined by standing orders.
- (3) A member of the House of Lords who is a peer who does not attend for as many days as in the declaration of intent, ceases to be a member of the House at the beginning of the following Session.
- (4) Subsection (3) does not apply to a peer in respect of attendance during a Session if—
 - (a) the peer was disqualified from sitting or voting in the House, or suspended from its service, for the whole or a substantial proportion of the Session, or
 - (b) the House resolves that subsection (3) should not apply to the peer by reason of special circumstances.”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Lucas to After Clause 1

In inserted subsection (1), after “peer” insert “and has not been granted leave of absence”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Lucas to After Clause 1

In inserted subsection (4)(b), at beginning insert “on the application of the peer to whom subsection (3) might otherwise apply,”

LORD LUCAS

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Declaration of minimum participation

After section 2 of the House of Lords Reform Act 2014, insert—

“2A Commitment to participate in committees of the House

- (1) At the start of each Session of Parliament, a member of the House of Lords who is a peer must sign a declaration of intent to participate actively in committees of the House during that Session.
- (2) The definition of ‘participate actively’ in subsection (1) is to be determined by standing orders.
- (3) Committees includes—
 - (a) select committees;
 - (b) domestic committees;
 - (c) Committee of the Whole House;
 - (d) Grand Committee when sitting for committee stage of a bill.
- (4) At the end of each Session the House must publish the statistics of each peer’s participation in committees of the House.
- (5) A member of the House of Lords who is a peer whose participation in committees of the House falls below the level in the declaration of intent, ceases to be a member of the House at the beginning of the following Session.
- (6) Subsection (3) does not apply to a peer in respect of attendance during a Session if—
 - (a) the peer was disqualified from sitting or voting in the House, or suspended from its service, for the whole or a substantial proportion of the Session, or
 - (b) the House resolves that subsection (3) should not apply to the peer by reason of special circumstances.””

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Lucas to After Clause 1

In inserted subsection (1), after “peer” insert “who has not been granted leave of absence”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Lucas to After Clause 1

After inserted subsection (6)(b), insert—

“(c) the peer has otherwise participated in the business of the House;”
 “business of the House” for the purposes of this subsection includes all stages of a bill, oral questions and statements in the Chamber.”

THE EARL OF DUNDEE
 VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“House of Lords Appointments Commission: recommendations for life peerages

In the Life Peerages Act 1958, after section 1(1) (power to confer life peerages) insert—

“(1A) No recommendation may be made to His Majesty to confer a life peerage except by the House of Lords Appointments Commission.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that life peerages can only be conferred by the King on the advice of the House of Lords Appointments Commission and not of the Prime Minister. (NB If future legislation created an electoral college to elect some members of the House of Lords, it would need to amend this provision.)

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of The Earl of Dundee to After Clause 1

After subsection (1A), insert—

“(1B) No such recommendation may be made by the House of Lords Appointments Commission unless that Commission is satisfied that the person to be recommended is a fit and proper person to sit and vote in the House of Lords and will participate appropriately in its business.”

THE EARL OF DUNDEE
Revised version of the amendment printed on 7th January 2025

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“House of Lords Appointment Commission: statutory basis

- (1) There is to be a body corporate known as the House of Lords Appointments Commission.
- (2) The object of the Commission is to make recommendations to the Crown for the creation of peerages conferring membership of the House of Lords under the Life Peerages Act 1958.

- (3) The Commission shall consist of 20 members (“Commissioners”), including a Chair, to be appointed by the Prime Minister.
- (4) The Prime Minister must consult the following individuals before appointing Commissioners –
- (a) the Leader of the House of Lords,
 - (b) the Shadow Leader of the House of Lords,
 - (c) the leader of the third largest party-political group in the House of Lords, and
 - (d) the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers.
- (5) The Commissioners must be appointed with regard to their political affiliation, ensuring that they represent the different political groups in the House of Lords, according to the numbers specified in this table –

Political affiliation	Number of Commissioners
The governing party	5
The party of the Official Opposition in the House of Lords	5
Independent, unaffiliated or non-party	7
The party of the third largest party-political group in the House of Lords	3

- (6) The Chair of the Commission must be independent of any registered political party.
- (7) Commissioners may serve for a non-renewable term of seven years.
- (8) The Commission must appoint a chief executive.
- (9) The Commission may appoint other staff.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to establish the House of Lords Appointments Commission on a statutory basis and specify the political affiliation of its Commissioners.

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of the Earl of Dundee to After Clause 1

In the table in subsection (5), after “non-party” insert “or from a party-political group in the House of Lords not otherwise identified in this table”

THE EARL OF DUNDEE
LORD COLGRAIN

Revised version of the amendment printed on 7th January 2025

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Future composition of the House of Lords

- (1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a draft Bill containing legislative proposals for –
 - (a) conferring power on the House of Lords Appointments Commission to recommend the appointment, as crossbench peers, of one third of the membership of the House of Lords other than the Lords Spiritual,
 - (b) conferring a duty on the House of Lords Appointments Commission to recommend the appointment of faith representatives when discharging their power under paragraph (a),
 - (c) conferring a duty on the House of Lords Appointments Commission to consult with the Leader of the House of Lords, the Shadow Leader of the House of Lords, the leader of the third largest party-political group in the House of Lords and the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers, on an ongoing basis, when discharging their power under paragraph (a),
 - (d) an electoral college to indirectly elect two thirds of the membership of the House of Lords other than the Lords Spiritual,
 - (e) ensuring that elections under paragraph (d) are conducted with integrity, fairness and transparency, including placing a duty on a Secretary of State to uphold the integrity, fairness and transparency of the elections, and establishing an independent advisor to support the Secretary of State in discharging that duty,
 - (f) providing that when life peers (who were appointed before the commencement of the Act arising from the draft Bill) die or leave the House, they are replaced, on the basis of two deceased or departed life peers being replaced by one new member, by members appointed on the recommendation of the Appointments Commission (in one third of cases) and elected by the electoral college (in two thirds of cases), until all the members of the House other than the Lords Spiritual have been so appointed or elected,
 - (g) the membership of the House of Lords to be capped at 620, from the point at which all members of the House other than the Lords Spiritual are appointed on the recommendation of the Appointments Commission or elected by the electoral college,
 - (h) a retirement age of 90 for members of the House of Lords other than the Lords Spiritual,
 - (i) a term limit of 15 years for members of the House of Lords other than the Lords Spiritual, beginning from the point at which the relevant provision comes into force,
 - (j) reducing the number of Lords Spiritual who are members of the House of Lords to 20,
 - (k) only some peerages to confer membership of the House of Lords.
- (2) The proposal for an electoral college must include the following membership –
 - (a) some members of the House of Commons,

- (b) some members of the Scottish Parliament, Senedd and Northern Ireland Assembly,
 - (c) some members of local authority councils,
 - (d) some mayors of combined authorities,
 - (e) some members of the Greater London Assembly,
 - (f) such other persons and representatives of such bodies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (3) The proposal for an electoral college must include a method of election consisting of a quota system, according to the proportions in the following table –

Political affiliation	Proportion, out of the members elected by the electoral college
The governing party	37.5%
The party of the Official Opposition in the House of Commons	37.5%
Other political parties represented in the House of Commons	25.0%

- (4) In preparing the draft Bill under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult the Leader of the House of Lords, the Shadow Leader of the House of Lords, the leader of the third largest party-political group in the House of Lords and the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers.
- (5) In preparing the draft Bill under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must have regard to the effect of the proposals on –
- (a) the relationship between HM Government and Parliament and –
 - (i) the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive,
 - (ii) the Scottish Parliament, the Senedd and the Northern Ireland Assembly,
 - (iii) local authorities in England,
 - (b) the quality of legislative and government scrutiny that the House of Lords provides,
 - (c) the balance of power between HM Government and Parliament,
 - (d) the examples that the Parliament of the United Kingdom sets to the Commonwealth, member states of the Council of Europe and the rest of the world.”

Member's explanatory statement

This would require a draft Bill providing for further reforms, including an electoral college to elect two thirds (or 400 out of 600) of the temporal members of the House. The Appointments Commission appointing crossbench peers as one third (or 200 out of 600) of the temporal members of the House, together with the proportions elected by the electoral college, would result in a House (other than the 20 Lords Spiritual) comprising: approximately 33% crossbench peers (200 members), 25%

Government peers (150), 25% Opposition peers (150), and approximately 17% from other political parties (100).

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Life peerages not to be conferred against recommendation of the House of Lords Appointments Commission (2)

In the Life Peerages Act 1958, after section 1(1) (power to confer life peerages) 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.
- (1B) The House of Lords Appointments Commission shall not write a letter of the kind referred to in subsection (1A) unless it has given to the person concerned a detailed summary of the reasons why the Commission is minded to write such a letter, and has afforded to that person an opportunity to make written and oral representations to the Commission.””

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM
LORD SCRIVEN

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Exclusion of bishops

- (1) No-one shall be a member of the House of Lords by virtue of being a bishop or archbishop of the Church of England.
- (2) No bishop or archbishop of the Church of England is entitled to receive, in that capacity, a writ of summons to attend, or sit and vote in, the House of Lords.
- (3) Nothing in this section prevents a person who is, or has been, a bishop or archbishop of the Church of England from receiving, and exercising the entitlements under, a peerage for life in accordance with section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958.
- (4) Nothing in this section prevents a person who is, or has been, a bishop or archbishop of the Church of England from being permitted to enter the House of Lords for the purpose only of leading prayers in accordance with arrangements made by that House.
- (5) The provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to any bishop or archbishop of the Church of England who at the commencement of this Act has a right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, and any such person may continue to sit and vote in the House of Lords until attaining the age of 70.”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM
LORD SCRIVEN

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Exclusion of bishops: consequential amendments etc.

- (1) In the House of Lords Precedence Act 1539—
 - (a) omit section 3 (places of the Archbishops and Bishops);
 - (b) in section 6 (place of the King’s Chief Secretary) omit the words after “aforemencioned”.
- (2) The Bishopricks Act 1878 is repealed.
- (3) In the Welsh Church Act 1914, omit section 2(3) (writs of summons to be issued to bishops not disqualified by the 1914 Act for sitting in the House of Lords).
- (4) In the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975, in section 1(1), omit paragraph (za) (disqualification of Lords Spiritual).
- (5) In the Northern Ireland Act 1998, in section 36(6), omit paragraph (b) (a person is not disqualified for membership of the Assembly by reason only that he is a Lord Spiritual).
- (6) In the Scotland Act 1998, in section 16(1), omit paragraph (b) (a person is not disqualified from being a member of the Scottish Parliament because he is a Lord Spiritual).
- (7) In the House of Commons (Removal of Clergy Disqualification) Act 2001, in section 1, omit subsection (2) (Lords Spiritual disqualified from being a Member of the House of Commons).
- (8) In the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, in section 41, omit subsection (6)(b) (members entitled to receive writs of summons to attend the House of Lords by virtue of being an archbishop or bishop); but this subsection is without prejudice to the continued application of that provision in relation to tax years beginning before the commencement of this Act.
- (9) In the House of Lords Reform Act 2014, in section 4(3), for “by virtue of a hereditary peerage or as a Lord Spiritual” substitute “or by virtue of a hereditary peerage”.
- (10) The Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015 is repealed.
- (11) In the enactment formula used for Acts passed after the passing of this Act, where the phrase “by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons” appears, the phrase “by and with the advice and consent of the Lords and Commons” is to be used instead.”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Retirement age and term limits

- (1) 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.
- (2) A member of the House of Lords who, having not attained the age of 85, has sat in the House by virtue of a life peerage for 15 years ceases to be a member of the House of Lords at the end of the Session of Parliament in which they reached 15 years of such membership or, if they have already sat in the House by virtue of a life peerage for more than 15 years at the end of the Session in which this Act is passed, they cease to be a member of the House of Lords at the end of that Session.”

THE EARL OF DEVON
LORD ANDERSON OF IPSWICH

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“House of Lords Appointments Commission: recommendations for life peerages

In the Life Peerages Act 1958, after section 1(1) (power to confer life peerages) insert –

- “(1A) During the period of five years following the day on which the House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Act 2025 comes into force, the House of Lords Appointments Commission may recommend to His Majesty that up to 20 life peerages be conferred on persons who intend to sit in the House of Lords as independent, unaffiliated or non-party Peers.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to encourage the use of the House of Lords Appointments Commission as the means by which members of the Cross Benches are appointed following the removal of Hereditary Peers.

BARONESS HARMAN
LORD BIRT
LORD SCRIVEN
BARONESS MEACHER

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Proposals for removing the Lords Spiritual

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within two years of the day on which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a paper setting out proposals to remove the membership of the Lords Spiritual from the House of Lords.
- (2) The paper must include, but is not limited to, proposals to –
 - (a) remove the Lords Spiritual from membership of the House of Lords,

- (b) remove or replace the functions of the Lords Spiritual in the proceedings of the House of Lords, and
 - (c) lay provisions for consequential changes to legislation, standing orders and running of the House of Lords to be made following the removal of the Lords Spiritual.
- (3) Nothing in the proposals may prevent a person who is, or has been, a bishop or Archbishop of the Church of England from receiving, and exercising the entitlements under, a peerage for life in accordance with section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958 (power to confer life peerages).”

LORD TRUE
BARONESS FINN

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Life peerages to be recommended for all excepted hereditary peers

On the day on which this Act is passed, the Prime Minister must recommend to His Majesty the King that all individuals who were excepted hereditary peers on the previous day be granted a life peerage under section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Prime Minister to recommend life peerages for all excepted hereditary peers currently serving in the House of Lords.

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord True to After Clause 1

After “that” insert “50% of”

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord True to After Clause 1

After “that” insert “25% of”

LORD INGLEWOOD
VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause –

“Review: changes to the composition of the House of Lords in the future

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, review the impact of this Act and any subsequent legislation which alters the composition of the House of Lords on the process by which changes are made in the future to –

- (a) appointments to the House of Lords;
 - (b) the composition of the House of Lords.
- (2) The Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament the report of the review within one year of the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) Thereafter, the Secretary of State must initiate a review of the subject matter in subsection (1) within the six months after any future General Election and must lay before each House of Parliament the report of the review within one year of the day on which the General Election took place.”

LORD WOLFSON OF TREDEGAR
LORD KEEN OF ELIE

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court

- (1) Omit subsection (3) of section 137 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (parliamentary disqualification for holders of disqualifying judicial offices).
- (2) On the day on which this Act is passed, the Prime Minister must recommend to His Majesty the King that the President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court be granted a life peerage under section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958 (power to confer life peerages).
- (3) When a person is appointed as President or Deputy President of the Supreme Court, the Prime Minister must recommend to His Majesty the King that the person be granted a life peerage under section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure the President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court are granted life peerages.

LORD WOLFSON OF TREDEGAR
LORD KEEN OF ELIE

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Senior members of the judiciary

- (1) On the day on which this Act is passed, the Prime Minister must recommend to His Majesty the King that the Lord Chief Justice, Master of the Rolls and Lord President of the Court of Session be granted a life peerage under section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958 (power to confer life peerages).
- (2) When a person is appointed to the position of Lord Chief Justice, Master of the Rolls or Lord President of the Court of Session, the Prime Minister must recommend to His Majesty the King that the person be granted a life peerage under section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the Lord Chief Justice, Master of the Rolls and Lord President of the Court of Session are granted life peerages.

LORD WOLFSON OF TREDEGAR
LORD KEEN OF ELIE

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Lord Chancellor

In the case of any person who holds the office of Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain who is not currently a member of the House of Lords, the Prime Minister must recommend to His Majesty the King that the person be granted a life peerage under section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958 (power to confer life peerages).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the Lord Chancellor is a member of the House of Lords, as was the case for over two centuries leading up to the passage of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005.

BARONESS JENKIN OF KENNINGTON

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Appointments to the House of Lords: women

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) a recommendation for a life peerage is made to His Majesty the King after the day on which this Act comes into force, and
 - (b) at the time the recommendation is made, there are more male than female members of the House of Lords.
- (2) Recommendations by the Prime Minister to His Majesty the King for the granting of life peerages under section 1 of the Life Peerages Act 1958 (power to confer life peerages) must be comprised entirely of women.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require all new appointments to the House of Lords to be women until there are an equal number of men and women with membership of the House of Lords, to probe the benefits of having more female peers in the House of Lords.

LORD LUCAS

★ After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

“Review of composition of the House of Lords

- (1) The Prime Minister must, within one year of the day on which this Act is passed, request the House of Lords to review the composition of the House of Lords.

- (2) The Prime Minister must, as part of the request under subsection (1), request the House to suggest recommendations for changes to its composition with the aim of improving—
- (a) the efficacy of scrutiny of legislation and policy in the House, and
 - (b) public participation in the work of the House.”

Clause 2

THE EARL OF DEVON

Clause 2, page 1, line 8, at end insert—

- “(3) Claims to hereditary peerages shall hereafter be determined by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (pursuant to section 4 of the Judicial Committee Act 1833) and in exercising such jurisdiction the Judicial Committee must have regard to principles of gender equality.
- (4) The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council must publish a statement every five years stating how they have had regard to principles of gender equality under subsection (3).”

Member's explanatory statement

In the light of the fact that hereditary peerages often pass to eldest sons, this amendment seeks to ensure that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, when exercising its jurisdiction to determine peerage claims, does so in a manner that is not gender discriminatory to the extent that it is able, and reports regularly as to its success in achieving this.

LORD NORTHBROOK

Clause 2, page 1, line 8, at end insert—

- “(3) Claims to hereditary peerages shall hereafter be determined by the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.”

After Clause 2

THE EARL OF DEVON

After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause—

“Report: principles of gender equality

- (1) The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council must, within six months of the day on which this Act is commenced, undertake a consultation on how principles of gender equality should be applied when determining hereditary peerage claims which were formerly determined by the House of Lords.
- (2) The Committee must publish a report following the conclusion of the consultation which must address—
 - (a) the expectations of existing heirs;

- (b) heirs born to unmarried parents;
- (c) families with adopted children.”

Member's explanatory statement

In the light of the fact that hereditary peerages often pass to eldest sons, this amendment requires that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council must, within six months of the commencement of this Act, consult on how principles of gender equality should be applied when determining hereditary peerage claims.

LORD LUCAS
VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“Review: impact of this Act on the effectiveness of the House of Lords

Within two years of the day on which this Act is passed, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State must publish a report on the impact of this Act on the effectiveness of the House of Lords at discharging its core functions.”

THE EARL OF DUNDEE
VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“Review

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act comes into force, the Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament the report of a review detailing the effect of this Act on –
 - (a) the relationship between HM Government and Parliament and –
 - (i) the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive,
 - (ii) the Scottish Parliament, the Senedd and the Northern Ireland Assembly,
 - (iii) local authorities in England,
 - (b) the quality of legislative and government scrutiny that the House of Lords provides,
 - (c) the balance of power between HM Government and Parliament,
 - (d) the example that the Parliament of the United Kingdom sets to the Commonwealth, member states of the Council of Europe and the rest of the world.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to place a duty on the Secretary of State to produce a report on the effect of the provisions of the Bill.

THE EARL OF DEVON

After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause—

“Review of and consultation on appropriateness of name of House

The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a report based on a public consultation on the implications of the provisions in this Act for the appropriateness of the name of the House of Lords.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment invites consideration of the suitability of the name “House of Lords” after the removal of the Hereditary Peers from Parliament.

Clause 4

LORD LUCAS

Clause 4, page 2, line 15, at end insert—

“(2A) This section and section (*Review: impact of this Act on the effectiveness of the House of Lords*) come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.”

THE EARL OF DUNDEE

Clause 4, page 2, line 15, at end insert—

“(2A) This section, section (*House of Lords Appointments Commission: recommendations for life peerages*), section (*Future composition of the House of Lords*), and section (*Review*) come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to commence three sections (inserted by other amendments in the name of the Earl of Dundee) on the day on which the Act is passed.

LORD NORTHBROOK

Clause 4, page 2, line 16, leave out subsections (3) and (4) and insert—

“(3) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

(4) Sections 1 to 3 of this Act do not come into force until the people of the United Kingdom have approved their coming into force in a referendum conducted in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.”

LORD HAMILTON OF EPSOM

Clause 4, page 2, line 16, leave out subsections (3) and (4) and insert –

- “(3) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) Sections 1 to 3 of this Act do not come into force until a Constitutional Conference between the House of Lords and the House of Commons has been convoked for at least six months following its first meeting (unless it can agree recommendations earlier) to consider the composition of the House of Lords.”

LORD LUCAS
THE EARL OF DUNDEE

Clause 4, page 2, line 16, at beginning insert “The rest of”

BARONESS HAYTER OF KENTISH TOWN

Clause 4, page 2, line 16, leave out from “force” to “which” and insert “on the day on”

LORD BLENCATHRA
VISCOUNT HAILSHAM
LORD DOBBS

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.

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

Clause 4, page 2, line 17, leave out “this Act is passed” and insert “the Secretary of State has published a draft bill with proposals for stage two of House of Lords reform.

- (3A) A “draft bill with proposals for stage two of House of Lords reform” is a draft bill which includes proposals which –
 - (a) introduce a mandatory retirement age for members of the House of Lords;
 - (b) introduce term limits not exceeding 15 years for life peers;

- (c) change the process of appointment of members of the House of Lords, so as to limit the discretion of the Prime Minister and of the leaders of any political party to secure the appointment of persons to sit and vote in the House of Lords;
- (d) introduce minimum participation requirements for continued membership of the House of Lords;
- (e) remove the automatic right of bishops to sit and vote in the House of Lords;
- (f) reduce the number of members entitled to sit and vote in the House of Lords to fewer than 600 by the dissolution of the Parliament in which any Act arising from the draft bill would be passed.”

LORD NORTHBROOK

Clause 4, page 2, line 17, leave out “this Act is passed” and insert “the Secretary of State has published a draft bill with proposals to implement the remaining changes recommended in paragraphs 33 to 38 of the Executive Summary of the Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords”

LORD NORTHBROOK

Clause 4, page 2, line 17, leave out “this Act is passed” and insert “the Secretary of State has published a draft bill with proposals to implement the remaining changes recommended in the first report of the Lords Speaker’s Committee on the Size of the House”

LORD LUCAS

Clause 4, page 2, line 17, at end insert “, or at the end of the Session of Parliament during which the Secretary of State has published a draft bill with proposals for stage two of House of Lords reform, whichever is later.

- (3A) A “draft bill with proposals for stage two of House of Lords Reform” is a draft bill which includes proposals which either –
- (a) make provision –
 - (i) specifying the proportion of seats in the House of Lords allocated to peers affiliated with each political party or with no political party, and bishops of the Church of England,
 - (ii) regarding the qualities required of persons appointed to the House of Lords, and
 - (iii) regarding the maximum size of the House of Lords, or
 - (b) deliver a more radical reform of the composition of the House of Lords, in the view of that House.”

BARONESS HAYTER OF KENTISH TOWN

Clause 4, page 2, line 19, leave out “after that Session” and insert “from the day on which this Act is passed”

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.

After Clause 4

LORD TRUE

★ After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause—

“Expiry

This Act expires at the end of 4 July 2029 unless, before that time, a subsequent Act has been passed by both Houses of Parliament implementing a mandatory retirement from the House of Lords at the end of the Parliament in which a member reaches 80 years of age, and that Act has been brought into force.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would annul the Act on 4 July 2029 unless another Act implementing a retirement age has also come into force, delivering in tandem the two measures committed to together in the Labour Party Manifesto.

Clause 5LORD 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.”

BARONESS HARMAN
LORD SCRIVEN

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

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on the new Clause amendment in the name of Baroness Harman. It would amend the short title of the Bill.

Title

BARONESS HARMAN
LORD SCRIVEN

Title, line 2, after “Lords;” insert “to mandate the development of proposals to remove the Lords Spiritual from membership of the House of Lords;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on the new Clause amendment in the name of Baroness Harman. It would amend the long title of the Bill.

House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tabled up to and including

7 February 2025

7 February 2025

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