



Local Government (Religious etc. Observances) Act 2015

2015 CHAPTER 27

An Act to make provision about the inclusion at local authority meetings of observances that are, and about powers of local authorities in relation to events that to any extent are, religious or related to a religious or philosophical belief. [26th March 2015]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen'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 Powers of councils

In Part 7 of the Local Government Act 1972 (miscellaneous powers of local authorities) after section 138 insert—

“138A Prayers and other observances

- (1) The business at a meeting of a local authority in England may include time for—
 - (a) prayers or other religious observance, or
 - (b) observance connected with a religious or philosophical belief.
- (2) Subsection (1) also applies in relation to meetings of—
 - (a) a committee of a local authority in England,
 - (b) a joint committee of two or more such authorities, whether appointed or established under Part 6 of this Act or any other enactment, or
 - (c) a sub-committee of such a committee or joint committee.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not limit other powers.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Religious etc. Observances) Act 2015. (See end of Document for details)

138B Involvement with religious events and events connected with a belief

- (1) A local authority in England may support or facilitate, or make arrangements to be represented at, any of the following—
 - (a) a religious event,
 - (b) an event with a religious element,
 - (c) an event connected with a religious or philosophical belief, or
 - (d) an event with an element connected with such a belief.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit other powers.
- (3) Any powers of a local authority in England that are given otherwise than under subsection (1) may be exercised—
 - (a) for the purpose of supporting or facilitating any event mentioned in subsection (1), or
 - (b) for purposes that include that purpose.
- (4) Subsection (3) does not limit the generality of those powers.”

2 Powers of other local authorities

- (1) In the Local Government Act 1972 after section 138B (which is inserted by section 1 of this Act) insert—

“138C Application of sections 138A and 138B to other authorities

- (1) Each of the following is (subject to the limitations set out) to be treated as a local authority for the purposes of sections 138A and 138B—
 - (a) the London Assembly, but only for the purposes of section 138A;
 - (b) the Greater London Authority, but only for the purposes of section 138B;
 - (c) the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, but only for the purposes of section 138B;
 - (d) the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority;
 - (e) Transport for London;
 - (f) a Mayoral development corporation;
 - (g) the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority or police authority or port health authority, but only for the purposes of section 138B(3);
 - (h) the Sub-Treasurer of the Inner Temple or the Under Treasurer of the Middle Temple, in that person's capacity as a local authority, but only for the purposes of section 138B(3);
 - (i) the Council of the Isles of Scilly;
 - (j) a parish meeting;
 - (k) charter trustees constituted—
 - (i) under section 246,
 - (ii) by the Charter Trustees Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/263), or
 - (iii) under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;