



# House of Lords Reform Act 2014

## 2014 CHAPTER 24

An Act to make provision for resignation from the House of Lords; and to make provision for the expulsion of Members of the House of Lords in specified circumstances. [14th May 2014]

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 Resignation

- (1) A member of the House of Lords who is a peer may retire or otherwise resign as a member of the House of Lords by giving notice in writing to the Clerk of the Parliaments.
- (2) The notice must—
  - (a) specify a date from which the resignation is to take effect, and
  - (b) be signed by the peer and by a witness.
- (3) At the beginning of that date the peer ceases to be a member of the House of Lords.
- (4) Resignation may not be rescinded.

### 2 Non-attendance

- (1) A member of the House of Lords who is a peer and does not attend the House of Lords during a Session ceases to be a member of the House at the beginning of the following Session.
- (2) A peer “does not attend the House of Lords during a Session” if, and only if, the Lord Speaker certifies that the peer—
  - (a) at no time during the Session attended the House, having regard to attendance records kept by officials of the House, and

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the House of Lords Reform Act 2014. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (b) did not have leave of absence in respect of the Session, in accordance with Standing Orders of the House.
- (3) Subsection (1) 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 of the Session, or
  - (b) the House resolves that subsection (1) should not apply to the peer by reason of special circumstances.
- (4) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of attendance during a Session that is less than six months long.
- (5) In this section a reference to attendance is a reference to attending the proceedings of the House (including the proceedings of a Committee of the House).
- (6) This section applies in respect of attendance during the first Session to begin after its coming into force and subsequent Sessions.

### **3 Conviction of serious offence**

- (1) A member of the House of Lords who is convicted of a serious offence ceases to be a member of the House of Lords.
- (2) A person “is convicted of a serious offence” if, and only if, the Lord Speaker certifies that the person, while a member of the House of Lords, has been—
  - (a) convicted of a criminal offence, and
  - (b) sentenced or ordered to be imprisoned or detained indefinitely or for more than one year.
- (3) It is irrelevant for the purposes of subsection (2)—
  - (a) whether the offence is committed at a time when the person is a member of the House of Lords;
  - (b) whether any of the offence, conviction, sentence, order, imprisonment or detention occurs in the United Kingdom or elsewhere; (but see subsection (9)).
- (4) The reference in subsection (2) to an offence is only to an offence committed on or after the day on which this section comes into force.
- (5) The reference in subsection (2) to a person being sentenced or ordered to be imprisoned or detained indefinitely or for more than one year does not include such a sentence or order where the sentence or order is suspended.
- (6) A certificate under subsection (2) takes effect when it is issued.
- (7) If a person who has ceased to be a member of the House of Lords in accordance with this section is successful on appeal—
  - (a) the Lord Speaker must issue a further certificate to that effect, and
  - (b) on the issue of that certificate, the original certificate under subsection (2) shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as never having had effect.
- (8) A person who has ceased to be a member of the House of Lords in accordance with this section “is successful on appeal” if, and only if, the Lord Speaker certifies that—
  - (a) the conviction certified under subsection (2)(a) has been quashed, or
  - (b) the sentence or order certified under subsection (2)(b) has been—