

Citizens' Convention Bill

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Establish a Citizens' Convention to facilitate the involvement of people from all sections of society in considering the way in which the United Kingdom is governed; to make provision relating to the implementation of recommendations made by the Convention; and for connected purposes.

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 Citizens' Convention

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the passing of this Act, establish a Citizens' Convention for the purposes of— 5
 - (a) involving people more directly in the process of democratic decision-making; and
 - (b) enabling people to participate in that process.
- (2) Before establishing the Citizens' Convention the Secretary of State must consult on the way in which the Convention shall be set up and discharge its functions. 10
- (3) The organisations to be consulted under subsection (2) shall include— 15
 - (a) organisations that have an interest in the governance of the United Kingdom;
 - (b) community organisations;
 - (c) organisations with an interest in environmental protection;
 - (d) organisations representing businesses;
 - (e) trade unions; and
 - (f) organisations representing the voluntary sector.
- (4) The Secretary of State must take reasonable steps to ensure that persons from the most under-represented and disadvantaged sections of society are involved in the Convention. 20
- (5) The Secretary of State must make regulations about the composition of the Convention, the procedure to be followed by the Convention, the way in which

persons specified in subsection (4) are involved in the Convention, and other matters relevant to the administration of the Convention.

- (6) Regulations made under subsection (5) must include a requirement for the Convention to hold meetings and adopt other mechanisms for promoting the involvement of people from all regions of the United Kingdom. 5
- (7) Regulations under this section –
 (a) must be made by statutory instrument; and
 (b) must be approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (8) In this section, “the most under-represented and disadvantaged sections of society” includes, but is not restricted to, people from ethnic minorities, people living in poverty, people with disabilities, people over the age of 60 and people under the age of 25. 10

2 Implementation of recommendations

- (1) It shall be the duty of the Citizens' Convention to make recommendations, in the form of written reports to the Secretary of State, to achieve the purposes specified in section 1. 15
- (2) The reports made under subsection (1) shall be published.
- (3) The Secretary of State must –
 (a) consider the recommendations made by the Convention;
 (b) co-operate with the Convention in taking decisions about their implementation; and
 (c) take such steps as are necessary to implement those decisions. 20

3 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament any expenses incurred under this Act by a Minister of the Crown or by the Convention.

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4 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Citizens' Convention Act 2008.

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To establish a Citizens' Convention to facilitate the involvement of people from all sections of society in considering the way in which the United Kingdom is governed; to make provision relating to the implementation of recommendations made by the Convention; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Julia Goldsworthy
supported by
Mr Douglas Carswell and Mr David Chaytor.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 17th December 2007.*

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LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx