

Forces Widows' Pensions (Equality of Treatment) Bill

CONTENTS

- 1 Equality of treatment
- 2 Regulations
- 3 Expenses
- 4 Interpretation
- 5 Short title

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B I L L

TO

Provide for equal treatment of forces widows' pensions in respect of retirement from military service for the periods before 1973 and between 1973 and 2005; 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 Equality of treatment

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the date on which this Act is passed, make regulations relating to armed forces pensions in accordance with subsection (2).
- (2) Regulations made under this section must provide for pensions paid to surviving spouses and civil partners of deceased armed forces personnel who retired from service—
 - (a) before 31 March 1973, and
 - (b) between 31 March 1973 and 6 April 2005,to be calculated and paid on the same basis.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Act shall affect the provision of pensions under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/438).

2 Regulations

- (1) Regulations made under section 1 shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (2) Regulations under this Act may make—
 - (a) any supplementary, incidental or consequential provision,
 - (b) any transitory, transitional or saving provision,which the Secretary of State considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of, in consequence of or for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act.

- (3) The provisions which may be made under subsection (2) includes provision amending or repealing any enactment or instrument.

3 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –

- (a) *any sums to be paid by the Secretary of State for or in connection with the carrying out of his functions under this Act; and* 5
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums which are payable out of money so provided under any other Act.*

4 Interpretation

In this Act –

“armed forces” means the naval, military or air forces of the Crown, but not the reserve forces,

“reserve forces” has the same meaning as in the Reserve Forces Act 1996 (c. 14). 10

5 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Forces Widows' Pensions (Equality of Treatment) Act 2009. 15

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To provide for equal treatment of forces widows' pensions in respect of retirement from military service for the periods before 1973 and between 1973 and 2005; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Mr Michael Mates
supported by
Mr Bruce George, Sir Menzies Campbell,
Patrick Mercer, Mr Michael Clapham,
Nick Harvey, Sir Peter Viggers, Simon Hughes
and Sir Michael Spicer.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
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