

British Museum Act 1963 (Amendment) Bill

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TO

Amend the British Museum Act 1963 to permit the transfer of artefacts in the British Museum; to confer powers on the Secretary of State to require the transfer of artefacts in specified circumstances; 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 Amendment of British Museum Act 1963

(1) In section 9 of the British Museum Act 1963 (c. 24) (transfers to other institutions) after subsection (1) insert—

“(2) The Trustees of the British Museum may transfer to another institution for public exhibition any object comprised in the collections of the Museum: 5

Provided that in deciding whether or not to transfer any such object, the Trustees shall have regard to the probable conditions of public access to the object in the recipient institution, to the interests of students and other persons visiting the Museum, to the physical condition and degree of rarity of the object in question, and to any risks to which it is likely to be exposed. 10

(3) The Secretary of State may require the Trustees of the British Museum to transfer to another institution for public exhibition any object comprised in the collections of the Museum if, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, the object— 15

(a) would be more widely accessible to visitors in the recipient institution than in the British Museum,

(b) would be more appropriately displayed in the recipient institution than in the British Museum by reason of its historic links with the country or region in which that institution is situated, or 20

(c) came to form part of the collections of the Museum in circumstances which make its retention in the collections undesirable or inappropriate. 25

- (4) Before exercising the power in subsection (3) the Secretary of State must—
- (a) consult the Trustees of the British Museum, and
 - (b) have regard to the considerations set out in the proviso to subsection (2).
- (5) A transfer under subsection (2) or (3) shall be effected only with the consent and at the expense of the recipient institution.”

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2 Short title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the British Museum Act 1963 (Amendment) Act 2010.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 2 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.

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*Presented by Mr Andrew Dismore,
supported by
Ms Karen Buck, Clive Efford,
John Austin, Mr Edward O'Hara
and Rob Marris.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 6 January 2010.*

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