

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill [HL]

AMENDMENTS TO BE MOVED IN GRAND COMMITTEE

Clause 1

BARONESS JONES OF MOULSECOOMB
BARONESS FOOKES

Page 1, line 5, leave out subsections (2) and (3) and insert –

- “(2) The function of the Committee is to determine whether, in relation to the formulation and implementation of policy, it is satisfied the government is having, or has had, due regard to how the policy might have an adverse effect on the welfare of animals as sentient beings.
- (3) Schedule (*Establishment of the Animal Sentience Committee*) has effect.

Page 1, line 10, leave out “may” and insert “must”

Clause 2

BARONESS JONES OF MOULSECOOMB
BARONESS FOOKES

Page 1, line 14, at end insert –

- “(2A) The report must state whether in the view of the Committee the question in subsection (2) is to be answered –
 - (a) in the affirmative, or
 - (b) in the negative.”

Clause 3

BARONESS JONES OF MOULSECOOMB
BARONESS FOOKES

Page 2, line 17, leave out “2” and insert “2(2A)(b)”

Clause 5

BARONESS JONES OF MOULSECOOMB
BARONESS FOOKES

Page 2, line 32, at end insert “and any cephalopod or decapod;

“policy” means any proposed or decided course of action by or on behalf of a Minister in the exercise of their statutory or common law powers.”

Page 2, line 32, at end insert —

“(1A) Nothing in this Act applies to an animal while it is in its foetal or embryonic form, except in relation to an animal to which sections 1 (protected animals) and 2 (regulated procedures) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 as amended apply.”

Page 2, line 35, at end insert “or extend the application of this Act to an animal from such earlier stage of its development as may be specified in the regulations.”

Page 2, line 36, at end insert —

“(3A) The power under subsection (2) may only be exercised if the Secretary of State is satisfied, on the basis of scientific evidence, that animals of the kind concerned are sentient.”

After Clause 6

BARONESS JONES OF MOULSECOOMB
BARONESS FOOKES

Insert the following new Schedule —

“ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANIMAL SENTIENCE COMMITTEE

Appointment of members

- 1 (1) The Committee is to consist of —
 - (a) a member appointed by the Secretary of State to Chair the Committee, and
 - (b) at least 8 but no more than 11 other members appointed by the Secretary of State.
- (2) In appointing members, the Secretary of State must have due regard to the need for the Committee to possess appropriate expertise and experience in —
 - (a) animal behaviour,
 - (b) animal welfare,
 - (c) neurophysiology,
 - (d) veterinary science,
 - (e) ethics,
 - (f) law, and
 - (g) public administration.
- (3) A member is appointed for a period not exceeding 4 years, as the Secretary of State determines.

After Clause 6 - continued

- (4) The Secretary of State may reappoint as a member of the Committee a person who is, or has been, a member. A member shall not normally be reappointed consecutively for more than two terms of office.
- (5) The Secretary of State may not appoint a person as a member of the Committee if the person is—
 - (a) a member of the House of Commons,
 - (b) a member of the House of Lords,
 - (c) a member of the Scottish Parliament,
 - (d) a member of Senedd Cymru,
 - (e) a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly,
 - (f) a councillor of a local authority.

General powers

- 2 (1) The Committee may do anything which appears to it—
 - (a) to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of, or in connection with, the performance of its function, or
 - (b) to be otherwise conducive to the performance of its function.
- (2) The foregoing includes, but is not limited to, requesting from the government such information and material as it considers necessary.
- (3) So far as is reasonable and practicable, the government must comply with any such request; if the government declines such a request it must provide to the Committee its reasons for doing so in writing.
- (4) In the event that the Committee considers the government has failed to meet the duty in paragraph 2(3) it may make reference to this in any report produced in accordance with section 2 of this Act.
- (5) It is for the Committee to identify those policies which in its view might have an adverse effect on the welfare of animals as sentient beings.
- (6) Without prejudice to the foregoing, the government must take reasonable steps to advise the Committee of its intention to formulate or implement any policy which might have an adverse effect on the welfare of animals as sentient beings.
- (7) If, in producing a report under section 2 of this Act, the Committee considers it to be desirable that the government receives further guidance on how animal welfare might be improved in relation to the relevant policy, it may refer the matter to an appropriate committee established for the purpose of providing such advice to ministers.
- (8) The Committee may invite to attend its meetings on either a permanent or temporary basis any person appointed to chair a body established by—
 - (a) the UK Government,
 - (b) the Scottish Government,
 - (c) the Welsh Government, or
 - (d) the Northern Ireland Executive,to provide advice on the welfare or protection of animals.
- (9) Persons attending in such an ex officio capacity may not participate in any decisions of the Committee.”

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28 June 2021
