

Skills and Post-16 Education Bill [HL]

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
ON REPORT

Clause 1

LORD WATSON OF INVERGOWRIE

Page 2, line 21, leave out subsection (6) and insert –

- “(6) A “local skills improvement plan”, in relation to a specified area, means a plan which –
- (a) is developed by an employer representative body in partnership with local authorities, including the Mayoral Combined Authorities and further education providers for the specified area
 - (b) draws on the views of –
 - (i) employers operating within the specified area
 - (ii) regional and local authorities, including the Mayoral Combined Authorities, within the specified area with specific reference to published plans and strategies which have been developed by these authorities to inform the distribution of funding and prioritisation of resources
 - (iii) post-16 education providers active in the specified area, including schools, further education institutions, community learning providers, specialist designated institutions and universitiesand includes any other evidence, to summarise the skills, capabilities or expertise that are, or may in the future be, required in the specified area, and
 - (c) identifies actions that relevant providers and other local bodies can take regarding any post-16 technical education or training that they provide so as to address the requirements mentioned in paragraph subparagraph (b).”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would provide for employer representative boards to develop local skills improvement plans in partnership with local authorities, including the Mayoral Combined Authorities, and local further education providers to ensure that they reflect the needs of learners and employers, as well social and economic development strategies, in the local area.

Clause 7

LORD WATSON OF INVERGOWRIE

Page 9, line 41, at end insert “following a public consultation and with the consent of employer representative bodies, as defined in the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2021.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment requires IfATE to consult and gain the consent of the relevant ERBs before withdrawing course approval.

After Clause 15

LORD WATSON OF INVERGOWRIE

“Lifelong loan entitlement eligibility

- (1) All students are eligible for the lifelong loan entitlement regardless of –
 - (a) prior qualification,
 - (b) subject being studied,
 - (c) mode of study,
 - (d) institution of study,
 - (e) location of study, including remote learning, or
 - (f) whether they are studying modules or full qualifications.
- (2) The Secretary of State may not, in exercising powers under this or any other Act in relation to the lifelong loan entitlement, restrict access to the scheme on the grounds set out in subsection (1).”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment removes the Equivalent or Lower Qualification (ELQ) exemption rule for the Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE) to ensure eligibility for student loan funding for another qualification at that or a lower level to facilitate career changes. It also ensures LLE eligibility regardless of subject, intensity of study, institution and learning style.

Insert the following new Clause –

“Duration of lifelong loan entitlement

As soon as practicable after this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must consult on extending the duration of the lifelong loan entitlement to up to six years equivalent funding.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This would require the Secretary of State to consult on extending the Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE) to six years in order to give those studying part-time or who may need to pause their studies more flexibility.

Clause 17

LORD WATSON OF INVERGOWRIE

Page 20, line 33, at end insert –

“(7A) When making decisions of a strategic nature in relation to a measure of student outcomes, the OfS must have regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to widen participation and reduce inequalities of outcome including those which result from socio-economic disadvantage.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that the OfS’s measure of student outcomes does not jeopardize widening participation for students from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.

After Clause 25

LORD WATSON OF INVERGOWRIE

Insert the following new Clause –

“Lifetime skills guarantee

- (1) All persons have the right to study a fully-funded approved course for a qualification up to level 3 supplied by an approved provider of further, higher, or technical education if they –
 - (a) do not currently hold a level 3 qualification, or
 - (b) currently hold a level 3 qualification and a person designated by the Secretary of State is satisfied that –
 - (i) the person would benefit from re-training, and
 - (ii) there is, or is likely to be, demand from employers in the occupations for employees who have obtained the particular qualification to be supplied.
- (2) The Secretary of State must prepare and publish a list of approved courses for the purposes of subsection (1).
- (3) The Secretary of State must consult on the list of approved courses to ensure that they are compatible with national levelling up and skills strategies.
- (4) The Secretary of State must review the list of approved courses at least every six months with a view to ensuring that they reflect the skills needed as the economy changes.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment places the Government lifetime skills guarantee on a statutory footing, ensuring that those without an A-Level or equivalent qualification, or who hold such qualification but have been determined to benefit from re-skilling, are able to study a fully funded approved course. The Secretary of State is required to consult on and regularly review the list of approved courses to ensure that they are compatible with national skills strategies.

Insert the following new Clause—

“Credit transfer arrangements

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision to facilitate credit transfer arrangements to allow students to move between education providers.
- (2) Regulations under this section are to be made by statutory instrument, and a statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment allows the Secretary of State to facilitate credit transfer arrangements to allow students to move between education providers.

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28 September 2021
