

Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill

AMENDMENTS TO BE MOVED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Clause 4

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

Page 2, line 2, leave out “If it has not been dissolved earlier,”

Member’s explanatory statement

This is a probing amendment aimed at debating the expectation of how long a Parliament should be in normal circumstances.

Page 2, line 3, at end insert “, except that, when the first meeting of a Parliament took place between the first of November and the following first of March, that Parliament dissolves on the first of June during its fifth year.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This is a probing amendment intended to discuss the regularity of dissolution.

Clause 6

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

Page 2, line 13, leave out subsection (3) and insert –

- “(3) This Act comes into force when a revised Dissolution Principles document has been laid before Parliament and –
 - (a) the revised Dissolution Principles document has been approved by a resolution of the House of Commons; and
 - (b) the House of Lords has debated a motion to take note of the revised Dissolution Principles document.
- (3A) The Dissolution Principles document under subsection (3) must be revised to refer to a “request” from the Prime Minister to the Sovereign to dissolve Parliament.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to implement a recommendation from the Joint Committee on the Fixed-term Parliaments Act to revise the Dissolution Principles document.

Page 2, line 13, leave out subsection (3) and insert –

- “(3) This Act comes into force when a Cabinet Manual revised in relation to the dissolution and calling of Parliament has been laid before Parliament.
- (3A) Prior to revising the Cabinet Manual the Minister must consult the relevant select committees in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.”

Member’s explanatory statement

The current Cabinet Manual references the Fixed-term Parliaments Act and has not been revised for 10 years. As a consequence of the repeal of that Act under this Bill, the Cabinet Manual should be revised in relation to the dissolution and calling of Parliament.

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19 January 2022
