



Attempts to amend Crown succession

Parliamentary Information List

Standard Note: SN/PC/04663

Last updated: 19 March 2015

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There have been several attempts by backbenchers since 1979 to amend crown succession prior to the Government's introduction of the [Succession to the Crown Bill, 2012-13](#). This PIL lists those [Private Members' Bills](#) which have sought to do so but does not contain amendments made to [Government Bills](#).

The first Government Bill to amend crown succession, the *Succession to the Crown Bill 2012-13* was presented on 13 December 2012 and changes the rules governing succession to the Crown in two ways. First, there will be no gender discrimination in determining succession. Secondly, a person marrying a Roman Catholic will no longer be barred from becoming or remaining monarch. The Bill received Royal Assent on 25 April 2013, becoming the *Succession to the Crown Act*, Ch. 20 2013.

More information on the Bill can be found in the [Commons Library briefing, Succession to the Crown Bill 2012-13](#).

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Any comments or corrections to the lists would be gratefully received and should be sent to: **Parliamentary Information Lists Editor**, Parliament & Constitution Centre, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Bill Title	Summary	Member	Stage	Date	Hansard ref.
Session 1981/82					
Succession to the Crown Bill	To amend the law with respect to the succession to the Crown.	Michael English (Labour)	1st reading	02/12/1981	14 c270
Session 1990/91					
Constitutional Reform Bill	To amend the law relating to the succession, rights and responsibilities of the Crown.	Simon Hughes (Liberal Democrats)	1st reading	03/07/1991	194 c340-2
Session 1996/97					
Succession to the Crown Bill (HL)	To remove any distinction between sexes in determining the succession to the Crown.	Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare	1st reading	18/02/1997	578 c555
Session 1997/98					
Succession to the Crown Bill (HL)	To remove any distinction between sexes in determining the succession to the Crown.	Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare	1st reading	31/07/1997	582 c313
			2nd reading (withdrawn)	27/02/1998	586 c909-18
Session 1998/99					
Succession to the Crown (Amendment) motion	To remove the bar on a person who is not, or who is married to a person who is not, a Protestant to succeed to the Crown.	Rt Hon Lord Forsyth of Drumlean	Motion disagreed to	02/12/1999	607 c917-9
Session 2001/02					
Treason Felony, Act of Settlement and Parliamentary Oath Bill	To provide that persons in communion with the Roman Catholic church are able to succeed to the Crown.	Kevin McNamara (Labour)	1st reading	19/12/2001	377 c319-25
Session 2004/5					
Succession to the Crown Bill (HL)	To make provision about succession to the Crown and about Royal marriages.	Lord Dubs	1st reading	08/12/2004	667 c903
			2nd reading (withdrawn)	14/01/2005	668 c495-515
Succession to the Crown (No. 2) Bill	To make provision about succession to the Crown and about Royal marriages.	Rt Hon Ann Taylor (Labour)	1st reading	12/01/2005	429 c314
Succession to the Crown and Retirement of the Sovereign	To provide for Sovereigns to be chosen by the House of Commons from among the immediate family of the preceding Sovereign; to provide that all Sovereigns so chosen shall cease to be Sovereign	Jonathan Sayeed (Conservative; Independent Conservative from February 2005)	Motion negated	25/01/2005	430 c161-3

Royal Marriages (Freedom of Religion) Bill	To allow any member of the Royal Family to marry a person of any religion or none.	Edward Leigh (Conservative)	1st reading	08/03/2005	431 c1392-4
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Session 2006/07

Catholics (Prevention of Discrimination) Bill	To remove remaining legislative discrimination against Catholics.	Rt Hon John Gummer (Conservative)	1st reading	20/02/2007	457 c154-6
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Session 2007/08

Royal Marriages and Succession to the Crown (Prevention of Discrimination) Bill 2008-09	To remove primogeniture from the line of succession and to enable the Monarch to marry a Catholic.	Dr. Evan Harris (Liberal Democrat)	Adjourned at 2nd Reading	27/03/2009	490 c556-629
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Session 2010/12

Succession to the Crown Bill	A Bill to remove any distinction between the sexes in determining the succession to the Crown.	Keith Vaz (Lab)	1st reading	18/01/2011	521 c704-06
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Session 2012/13

Succession to the Crown Bill (Government Bill)	To make succession to the Crown not dependent on gender; to make provision about Royal Marriages; and for connected purposes.	Rt Hon Nick Clegg (LD)	Royal Assent	25/04/2013	744 c1563
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Sources: Parliamentary Search, Hansard