

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

REFERRAL OF A BILL AT STAGE 1: HUNTING WITH DOGS (SCOTLAND) BILL

Introduction

1. The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 24 February 2022 by the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Michael Matheson MSP.

Discussion

2. The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill makes provision to limit the circumstances in which wild mammals can be hunted with dogs.
3. The Bill repeals and replaces the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, which made it an offence to hunt a wild mammal using a dog except in limited circumstances. The Bill makes similar provision so that it will continue to be an offence to hunt a wild mammal using a dog except in limited circumstances. Those circumstances include hunting for wildlife management or environmental purposes. Certain conditions must be met in order for an exception to apply. This includes a limit on the number of dogs that can be used. In relation to certain exceptions, the Bill establishes a licensing regime to allow for the use of more dogs.
4. The Bill introduces a new offence of engaging or participating in trail hunting. This is defined in the Bill as the activity in which a dog is directed to find and follow an animal-based scent. There is an exception for training dogs for lawful purposes, if certain conditions are met.
5. The Bill also contains further provision in relation to the offences, including court orders and enforcement powers for police constables.
6. The Bill falls within the remit of the following committees:

Rural Affairs, Islands and
Natural Environment
Committee

The Bill is concerned with animal welfare, which falls within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands. The remit of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee is to consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands. The remit of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee is therefore engaged.

Net Zero, Energy and
Transport Committee

The Bill was introduced by the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport. The remit of the Net Zero, Energy

and Transport Committee is to consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport. The remit of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee is therefore engaged.

7. It is understood that the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee has the main interest in this Bill.

Recommendation

8. It is suggested that the Bureau recommend to the Parliament that the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee be designated as the lead committee. We are not aware of any desire on the part of any other committee to be designated as a secondary committee. However, the lack of a formal designation does not prevent any committee from considering the Bill if it so wishes.

DRAFT MOTION

Designation of Lead Committee: That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

REFERRAL OF A BILL AT STAGE 1: GENDER RECOGNITION REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL

Introduction

9. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 2 March 2022 by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison MSP.

Discussion

10. The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill makes provision to reform the process of obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate. The Bill sets out who can apply for a GRC, how to make an application and the grounds on which an application is to be granted.
11. The Bill is within the remit of the following committees.

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

The remit of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee includes to consider and report on matters relating to equal opportunities. As this Bill concerns that subject matter, the remit of this Committee is engaged.

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

The remit of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee is to consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, excluding matters relating to local government, housing and planning. This Bill was introduced by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government. As such, the remit of this Committee is engaged.

12. It is understood that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has the main interest in the Bill. We are not aware of any desire on the part of any other committee to be designated as a secondary committee. However, the lack of a formal designation does not prevent any committee from considering the Bill if it so wishes.

Recommendation

13. It is suggested that the Bureau recommend to the Parliament that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee to consider this Bill at Stage 1.

DRAFT MOTION

Designation of Lead Committee: That the Parliament agrees that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

**Parliamentary Business Team
March 2022**