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Amend the law of succession to peerages, baronetcies and other hereditary titles; to provide for courtesy styles for the spouses and civil partners of their holders; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Abolition of male-preference primogeniture in peerages

(1) From the commencement of this Act, succession to all hereditary peerages, whether already extant or thereafter created, shall be governed by the rule of absolute primogeniture.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, "absolute primogeniture" means that the eldest child of the body of the grantee, whether male or female, and the heirs of such child, shall succeed before the younger siblings and their issue

(3) A person who holds a hereditary peerage at the commencement of this Act shall continue to hold it for the remainder of his or her life, and the rule in subsection (1) shall take effect only upon the next succession to that peerage falling to be determined after commencement. Nothing in this Act shall accelerate any succession or displace any living holder.

(4) Any succession to a peerage taking place prior to the commencement of this Act shall not be reopened or called into question by reason of this section.

2 Baronetcies and other hereditary titles

(1) Section 1 applies to baronetcies, and to any hereditary title or dignity, as it applies to hereditary peerages, with the necessary modifications.

(2) In this Act, references to a peerage include, except where the context otherwise requires, a baronetcy and any other hereditary title or dignity to which subsection (1) applies.

3 Courtesy styles for spouses and civil partners

(1) The husband or civil partner of a woman who holds a peerage, baronetcy or other hereditary title shall be entitled to such courtesy style as His Majesty may be pleased to allow, being a style equivalent, so far as practicable, to that enjoyed by the wife of a man holding the like dignity.
(2) This section applies whether the marriage or civil partnership was formed before or after the commencement of this Act.

4 Interpretation, extent and short title

(1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the succession to the Crown or to any peerage or other dignities or things whatsoever held by His Majesty.
(2) The Act extends to the whole of the United Kingdom.
(3) This Act does not affect the succession to land or any other property real or personal.
(4) This Act may be cited as the Succession to Peerages Act 2026.