

What is a private members bill?

Glossary

MP	Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected by people who live in an area called a constituency to represent their interests and concerns in the House of Commons.
Backbencher/ Frontbencher	Backbenchers are MPs or members of the House of Lords that are neither government ministers nor opposition Shadow spokespeople. They are so called because, in the Chamber, they sit in the rows of benches behind their parties' spokespeople who are known as frontbenchers.
Life Peer	A member of the House of Lords appointed from a wide range of professions. A Life Peer cannot pass their title on to his or her children. Although Life Peers are appointed by the Crown, it is the Prime Minister who nominates them. By convention the Leader of the Opposition and other party leaders can propose a certain number.
Hereditary Peer	An Hereditary Peer was traditionally in the House of Lords because they inherited the role from their father. The House of Lords Act 1999 removed the entitlement of most of the hereditary Peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords and of the 92 hereditary Peers who retain their seat in the Lords, 75 were elected by their fellow hereditary Peers.
Lords Spiritual	The Lords Spiritual are made up of the Archbishops of Canterbury and of York, the Bishops of London, Durham and Winchester as well as specific bishops of the Church of England.
Head of State	The highest official in a country. In the UK, the head of state is the monarch (King or Queen).
Legislature	a governing body that makes laws and can also amend or repeal them. The word legislature comes from the Latin word for "law"
Parliamentary Privilege	Parliamentary privilege grants certain legal immunities for Members of both Houses to allow them to perform their duties without interference from outside of the House. Parliamentary privilege includes freedom of speech and the right of both Houses to regulate their own affairs.
Central / national government	makes decisions about how the country is run and how things get done, for example building schools or hospitals. It is led by the Prime Minister.
Policies	courses of action or goals that people plan to carry out or are in the process of carrying out.
Parliament	the body that makes laws in the UK. It is made up of the House of Commons, House of Lords and the Monarch (Queen or King).