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Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists)  
Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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# Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

An Act of Senedd Cymru to make provision about the proportion and placement of women on lists of candidates to be Members of the Senedd; and for connected purposes.

**Having been passed by Senedd Cymru and having received the assent of His Majesty, it is enacted as follows:**

5 **1 Proportion and placement of women on lists of candidates to be Members of the Senedd**

In the Government of Wales Act 2006 (c. 32) (“the 2006 Act”), after section 7 (candidates at general elections) insert –

“7A **At least half of candidates on a list submitted under section 7 must be women**

- 10 (1) This section applies to a list submitted by a registered political party under section 7 that includes two or more candidates to be Members of the Senedd for a Senedd constituency.
- (2) Where there is an even number of candidates on the list, at least half of the candidates must be women.
- 15 (3) Where there is an odd number of candidates on the list, the majority of candidates must be women.
- (4) A candidate on a list who is not a woman must, unless the candidate is last on the list, be immediately followed on the list by a woman.

20 **7B First or only candidate on at least half of the lists submitted by a party must be a woman**

- (1) This section applies where a registered political party has, under section 7, submitted lists of candidates for two or more Senedd constituencies.
- 25 (2) Where the party has submitted an even number of lists, the first or only candidate on at least half of those lists must be a woman.
- (3) Where the party has submitted an odd number of lists, the first or only candidate on the majority of those lists must be a woman.

**7C The national nominations compliance officer and enforcement of section 7B**

- 30 (1) An order under section 13 must make provision for the designation by the Welsh Ministers of a national nominations compliance officer.

- (2) The national nominations compliance officer has such functions related to ensuring compliance with section 7B as are provided for in an order made under section 13.
- (3) An order under section 13 may make provision about –
- 5 (a) what steps may or must be taken where the lists of candidates submitted under section 7 by a registered political party are not in compliance with section 7B;
- (b) the functions of a constituency returning officer in relation to ensuring compliance with section 7B.
- 10 (4) Provision under subsections (2) and (3) may in particular –
- (a) set out how the national nominations compliance officer may or must determine (which may be through the drawing of lots) the list or lists in respect of which steps may or must be taken by virtue of paragraph (b);
- 15 (b) require or enable a constituency returning officer to –
- (i) make changes, in accordance with the order, to a list selected by virtue of paragraph (a);
- (ii) hold, in accordance with the order, that where the only candidate on a list selected by virtue of paragraph (a) is not a woman, that candidate no longer stands nominated.
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**7D Particular provision relating to sections 7A and 7B that may or must be made in an order under section 13**

- (1) Provision relating to sections 7A and 7B that may be made in an order under section 13 includes, in particular, provision about –
- 25 (a) the effect of the removal of a candidate from a list of candidates on compliance with sections 7A and 7B, including provision under which, despite the removal of a candidate, a list is to be treated as complying with those sections;
- 30 (b) inspection of a statement made by virtue of subsection (2).
- (2) An order under section 13 must make provision requiring a person (P), as part of the process by which P is nominated by a registered political party as a candidate, to state either –
- 35 (a) that P is a woman, or
- (b) that P is not a woman.”

**2 Review of operation and effect of this Act etc.**

- (1) The Presiding Officer must table a motion that complies with subsection (2) –
- (a) as soon as practicable after the first meeting of Senedd Cymru (“the Senedd”) held after the general election mentioned in subsection (3), and
- 40 (b) in any event, no later than six months after that meeting.

- (2) The motion must propose that—
- (a) the Senedd establish a committee for the purposes of carrying out a review of the operation and effect of sections 7A to 7D of the 2006 Act (as inserted by section 1 of this Act), and any related provision made under section 13 of that Act or under this Act, and
  - (b) a report on the review must be completed by the committee no later than twelve months after the meeting of the Senedd described in subsection (1)(a).
- (3) The general election referred to in subsection (1) is the first general election held, under Part 1 of the 2006 Act, after the day on which section 1 of this Act comes into force for all purposes.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if, following a review of the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(a) by a committee established pursuant to a motion tabled in accordance with subsection (1), a report on the review is laid before the Senedd by the committee.
- (5) If this subsection applies, the Welsh Ministers must lay before the Senedd a statement that sets out the Welsh Ministers' response to the report mentioned in subsection (4).

### **3 Power to make consequential, transitional etc. provision**

- (1) If the Welsh Ministers consider it appropriate for the purposes of, in consequence of, or for giving full effect to any provision of this Act they may, by regulations, make—
- (a) consequential, incidental or supplementary provision;
  - (b) transitional, transitory or saving provision.
- (2) Regulations under this section may—
- (a) amend, repeal, revoke or modify this Act or any other enactment (whenever passed or made);
  - (b) make different provision for different purposes.
- (3) The power to make regulations under this section is exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section that amend, repeal or modify an enactment contained in primary legislation may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, Senedd Cymru.
- (5) Any other statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of Senedd Cymru.
- (6) In this section, “primary legislation” means—
- (a) an Act of Senedd Cymru;
  - (b) an Assembly Measure;
  - (c) an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

**4 Coming into force**

- (1) This section, and sections 3 and 5, come into force on the day after the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.
- (2) The other provisions of this Act come into force on a day or days appointed by the Welsh Ministers in an order made by statutory instrument.
- (3) An order under subsection (2) may –
  - (a) make transitional, transitory or saving provision;
  - (b) appoint different days for different purposes.

**5 Short title**

The short title of this Act is the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Act 2024.