



Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 2

1 Exclusion of candidate selection from 1975 Act

At the beginning of Part 5 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65) insert—

“42A Selection of candidates

- (1) Nothing in Parts 2 to 4 shall—
 - (a) be construed as affecting arrangements to which this section applies, or
 - (b) render unlawful anything done in accordance with such arrangements.
- (2) This section applies to arrangements made by a registered political party which—
 - (a) regulate the selection of the party’s candidates in a relevant election, and
 - (b) are adopted for the purpose of reducing inequality in the numbers of men and women elected, as candidates of the party, to be members of the body concerned.
- (3) The following elections are relevant elections for the purposes of this section—
 - (a) parliamentary elections;
 - (b) elections to the European Parliament;
 - (c) elections to the Scottish Parliament;
 - (d) elections to the National Assembly for Wales;
 - (e) local government elections within the meaning of section 191, 203 or 204 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2) (excluding any election of the Mayor of London).
- (4) In this section “registered political party” means a party registered in the Great Britain register under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41).”

2 Exclusion of candidate selection from 1976 Order

At the beginning of Part 6 of the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (S.I.1976/1042 (N.I. 15)) insert—

“43A Selection of election candidates

- (1) Nothing in Parts 3 to 5 shall—
 - (a) be construed as affecting arrangements to which this Article applies, or
 - (b) render unlawful anything done in accordance with such arrangements.
- (2) This Article applies to arrangements made by a registered political party which—
 - (a) regulate the selection of the party’s candidates in a relevant election, and
 - (b) are adopted for the purpose of reducing inequality in the numbers of men and women elected, as candidates of the party, to be members of the body concerned.
- (3) The following elections are relevant elections for the purposes of this Article—
 - (a) parliamentary elections;
 - (b) elections to the European Parliament;
 - (c) elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly;
 - (d) elections to a district council.
- (4) In this Article “registered political party” means a party registered in the Northern Ireland register under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41).”.

3 Expiry

- (1) This Act shall expire at the end of 2015 unless an order is made under this section.
- (2) At any time before this Act expires the Secretary of State may by order provide that subsection (1) shall have effect with the substitution of a later time for the time specified there (whether originally or by virtue of a previous order).
- (3) An order under this section shall be made by statutory instrument; but no order shall be made unless a draft has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, each House of Parliament.

4 Short title and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act 2002.
- (2) Section 1 does not extend to Northern Ireland, and section 2 extends only to Northern Ireland.