

House of Lords reform: outside expertise

by Francis Bennion

When I was drafting Bills and seeing them through Parliament I found that many excellent suggestions for improving a Bill came from outside Parliament. A prime function of the House of Lords is said to be to scrutinise Bills. However a great deal of expert scrutiny of a Bill is carried out as a matter of course by bodies representative of professions or businesses affected by it. The results are forwarded to members of either House of Parliament or the relevant Government department.

If an elected or partly elected House of Lords is required it would be desirable to provide for this indirectly by the votes of members of leading professional and other expert bodies such as the Law Society, the British Medical Association, the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and so on.¹

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References:

None

¹ Published in *The Times* 29 August 2011.