

Runaway and Missing Children Bill

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B I L L

TO

Make requirements regarding the safeguarding of runaway and missing children; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’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 “Runaway and missing children”

In this Act “runaway and missing children” includes any child (or young person under the age of eighteen) who—

- (a) has run away or is staying away from the person who is responsible for that child, or 5
- (b) has left home owing to rejection by the person who is responsible for that child, or
- (c) has been unlawfully taken away or is being unlawfully kept away from the person who is responsible for that child, or
- (d) is missing. 10

2 Duty of Secretary of State in relation to runaway and missing children

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to make appropriate provision for the collecting and reporting of information about runaway and missing children and for co-ordination among police, local authorities and other bodies. 15

3 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament—

- (a) *any expenditure under this Act of the Secretary of State, and*
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of money so provided under any other enactment.* 20

4 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Runaway and Missing Children Act 2008.
- (2) This Act shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

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To make requirements regarding the safeguarding of runaway and missing children; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Helen Southworth,
Mr Russell Brown, Ann Coffey,
Dan Norris, Mr Barry Sheerman,
Mr Kevin Barron, Alan Keen,
Fiona Mactaggart, Mr David Chaytor,
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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 9th January 2008.*

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