Parliamentary Bureau – Referral of Bill at Stage 1

Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

1. The Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 8 October 2025 by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Neil Gray MSP.

2. The Bill provides for the regulation of certain non-surgical procedures. It would make it an offence to provide such procedures to people under the age of 18, and to provide such services from somewhere other than a permitted premise. The Bill also contains regulation making powers to further regulate non-surgical procedures. In addition, the Bill makes two changes to the certification of death regime in Scotland. The first change relates to when an interested party can request a review of a medical certificate of cause of death, and when such a request can be denied. The second change would remove the need for a medical reviewer to authorise cremation where a person has died elsewhere in the UK but is to be cremated in Scotland.

Discussion

3. The remit of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee includes to consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care. The Cabinet Secretary is responsible, amongst other things, for health improvement and protection. He is supported by the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, whose responsibilities include medical records. The Bill makes provision relating to regulation of procedures for the purpose of preventing harm to health, and also makes provision relating to the role of medical reviewers in the certification of death. The remit of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee is therefore engaged.

4. No other committee remit appears to be engaged.

Recommendation

5. The Bureau is invited to refer the Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee under Rule 9.6.1 for consideration at Stage 1.

Parliamentary Business Team
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