

Parliamentary Bureau – Referral of a Bill at Stage 1

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

1. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 5 September 2024 by the Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, Gillian Martin MSP.

Discussion

2. The Bill replaces the interim and annual targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 with a system of targets based on carbon budgets. The Scottish Ministers will be required to set carbon budgets in regulations, with each carbon budget covering a period of 5 years.
3. The Bill also changes the deadline for the first Climate Change Plan, which will now need to be laid before the Parliament as soon as practicable after the first carbon budgets have been set.
4. The remit of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee includes to report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy. The Bill has been introduced by the Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy. The remit of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee is therefore engaged.
5. No other committee remit appears to be engaged.
6. It is understood that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee is to have a further discussion about the Scottish Government's proposed expedited timetable for the Bill at its meeting on 10 September. A further paper on the timetable for the Bill will be brought back to the Bureau at its next meeting.

Recommendation

7. The Bureau is invited to agree to refer the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee under Rule 9.6.1 for consideration at Stage 1.

Parliamentary Business Team
September 2024