

**PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU**

**REFERRAL OF A BILL AT STAGE 1: CHARITIES (REGULATION AND ADMINISTRATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**Introduction**

1. The Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 15 November 2022 by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison MSP.

**Discussion**

2. The Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill makes changes to the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act), which established the regulatory framework for charities. The Bill makes a number of changes to enhance the powers of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). These changes include giving OSCR wider powers to investigate charities and charity trustees; amending the rules on who can be a charity trustee or a senior office-holder in a charity; increasing the information that OSCR holds about charity trustees; updating the information which needs to be included on the Scottish Charity Register; requiring charities to have a connection to Scotland and creating a record of charities that have merged.
3. The Bill also makes a number of small technical changes to the 2005 Act to do things like clarify wording and specify deadlines for existing actions.
4. The Bill falls within the remit of the following committee:

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

The Bill is concerned with charities, which falls within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government. The remit of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee is to consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government. The remit of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee is therefore engaged.

5. No other committee remit appears to be engaged.

**Recommendation**

6. The Bureau is therefore invited to refer the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill to the Social Justice and Social Security Committee under Rule 9.6.1 for consideration at Stage 1.

**Parliamentary Business Team, November 2022**