

The Lesbian Archive and Information Centre Timeline

Revealing the hidden history of British lesbian women.

1988: Local Government Bill: Clause 28

The Archive holds a copy of the near final draft of Clause 28 that went through the parliament. By this stage, it had been known as various names including Clause 2A in England and Wales.

Local Government Bill: Clause 28

1) A local authority shall not -

a) promote homosexuality or publish material for the promotion of homosexuality;

b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship by the publication of such material or otherwise;

c) give financial or other assistance to any person for either of the purposes referred to in paragraphs a) and b) above.

2) Nothing in subsection 1) above shall be taken to prohibit the doing of anything for the purpose of treating or preventing the spread of disease.

Timetable

The Clause has now passed through the Commons (having been introduced in the Bill at a very late stage) and has had two readings in the Lords. The Committee stage in the Lords begins on 25 January, and is expected to take up four or five days over two or three weeks. This is the best opportunity for changes to take place. The Report stage and Third Reading will take place some time around 15 February. After that, any changes may be subject to an undebated Commons/Lords business manager's compromise, around the end of February. It would then be due to receive the Royal Assent on about 1 April and come into force on about 1 June.

Lesbian and Gay Rights Working Party, City of Leicester Teachers' Association (NUT)

