



CONSTANTINE IX

ROYO Y IMPERAD

A.S. 279

MARCH, 2021

No.4 of 2021

**An Act relating to the Hereditary and Non-Hereditary
Peerage of the Empire**

Assented to on the 9th of March, 2021

SARHOLM, 2021



BE IT ENACTED, by the Office of the Prime Minister of the New Sarovian Empire and Her Colonies and Dominions, with the advice and consent of the Imperial Parliament thereof, as follows:

The Purpose of the Peerage

1. In the New Sarovian Empire, an upper aristocratic class has always been there, represented by wealth and nobility. Since the beginning of New Sarovia in 2016, titles such as the Prince of Kiev, Archdukes, Dukes and more have been given to the most fervent of Sarovian supporters and close family members. Precedent has been abolished in the Times of Crisis of 2020 which gives way to the necessary codification and establishment of official legislation revolving the Peerage of the New Sarovian Empire.

All members of the Peerage must be sworn in during an investiture, though the process varies from time to time. Knights of the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire (OSE) and Knights of the Most Exalted Grand Order of the Vasas (OV) have investments which include the swearing of oaths, accolades, and more. Members of the nobility must be sworn in for their own respective ceremonies, and their appointments (as per appointments to the orders of chivalry) must be announced in the *Sarholm Gazette*. Knights are considered Peers, but not members of the Nobility.

Precedence of the Nobility

2. In the New Sarovian Empire there are five official titles in the nobility, which vary in many forms. Some are hereditary and some are not, and some are awarded for different things. These are, in descending order of precedence:

a) Princes of the Realm,

Princes and Princesses are the children of any monarch, who are legitimised. There are two types of Princes - Princes by Blood and Princes by Style. All legitimate children of a monarch are Prince/Princesses, and must be addressed as *Your Imperial Highness*. However, they may not attend the Assembly of Peers without their title (Princes by style.) There is only one Prince by Blood in the Empire - The Prince of Kiev. The Prince of Kiev may not be seated in the Assembly of Peers unless in another role.

b) Dukes of the Realm,

Dukes are second in precedence, and there are a total of five duchies in the Empire, though more may be created. A Duchy is usually given to a former federal monarch, or any of the old

claimants to old Duchies of 2018. Dukes are granted a seat in the Assembly of Peers. These five starting Duchies are: the Duke of Preuze, the Duke of Upper Preuze, Duke of Poltava, Duke of Sorrel and Duke of Westling. Each Duke is granted their coronet (the Red Jewelled Crown, Castle, 2,500 gralats), and their peerage robes.

As per the orders of His Imperial Majesty, the five starting Dukes are below:

1. His Grace the Duke of Preuze, Hankey Lyon
2. His Grace the Duke of Upper Preuze, Edward Vasa
3. His Grace the Duke of Poltava, Sevirax Vasa
4. His Grace the Duchess of Sorrel, Brianna Vasa
5. His Grace the Duke of Westling, William Vasa

c) Earls of the Realm,

Earls are third in precedence. There are five Earldoms spread throughout the New Sarovian Empire, though more may be created. An Earldom is given to any prestigious and high ranking member of the old Nobility. Earls are granted a seat in the Assembly of Peers. Their court dress is less fabulous than the Duchies, a coronet (the White Jeweled Crown, Castle, 2,500 gralats) and their peerage robes. They are addressed as *My Lord*.

As per the orders of His Imperial Majesty, the five starting Earls are below:

1. Lord Jafar Vasa, Earl of Nafetia
2. Lord Clement Picton, Earl of Elster
3. Lord Juno Aviz, Earl of Navars
4. Lord Henrique Vasa, Earl of Henryville
5. Lord John Vasa, Earl of Sarholm

d) Viscounts of the Realm,

Viscounts are fourth in precedence. Pronounced *vie-count*, these titles are hereditary like Earls and Dukes. The title Viscount is given to senior military officers and talented civil servants, and can be created and disbanded at the sole discretion of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor. The name of the title is usually a famous battlefield location, or of prominent families. Viscount's court dress is similar to the Earls and Barons of the Realm. They are addressed as *Lady/Lord*.

e) And Barons of the Realm.

Barons are fifth in precedence. These titles may or may not be hereditary unlike Viscounts, Earls and Dukes. The title Baron is given to military officers and talented civil servants and can be created and disbanded at the sole discretion of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor. The

name of the title is usually a famous battlefield location, or of prominent families. Baron's court dress is similar to the Earls and Barons of the Realm. They are addressed as *Lady/Lord*.

Each of them is entitled to wear court dress of varying degrees, their own style and title, inheritance, heraldry, uniforms, and more.

Eligibility of Old Titles

3. All defunct members of the nobility may petition His Imperial Majesty the Emperor to be inducted into the Peerage. They must have valid proof, or historical documents, of their former noble titles. Valid proof may include:

- a) Proof of inheritance or a sale,
- b) A will,
- c) A photo of you being granted the title,
- d) And others.

Eligibility to Attend the Assembly of Peers

4. All of the following titles are able to enter the Assembly of Peers:

- a) All Dukes of the Realm,
- b) All Earls of the Realm,
- c) All Viscounts of the Realm,
- d) All Barons of the Realm,
- e) All Knights of the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire (OSE)
- f) All Knights of the Most Exalted Grand Order of the Vasas (OV)

Likewise, the Prime Minister of the Imperial Parliament is able to enter the Assembly only to address the Assembly, and His Imperial Majesty is able to enter the Assembly and dissolve it at any moment.

Process of the Assembly of Peers

5. The Assembly of Peers shall strive to meet on the 8th and 25th of every month, as well as immediately after any meetings of the House of Commons. The traditional meeting locations are Tre Kronor, Borhaus, or Stenhammer on rare occasions. It may also be held online. The Lord-Speaker may, with the advice and consent of the Emperor, reschedule Peers meetings at will as necessary. Liberal Peers are to sit on one side of the room and conservative Peers on the other; the Emperor is allowed to attend.

Quorum will be the same percentage as in the Commons, as well the percentage needed to affirm a bill. When a bill is brought up, all Peers may speak freely on it, within reason; the Lord-Speaker is to merely lead discussion and keep order but must promote free discussion amongst the members, in contrast to the heavily guided and rule bound nature of Commons

meetings. When the Lord-Speaker believes it expedient to call a vote, he may do so, regardless of whether discussion has died down or not. The Lord-Speaker must also promote proper etiquette in meetings of the Peers.

The Emperor may choose to order the Speaker of the House of Commons to send a bill that has passed the Commons directly to him for assent, as opposed to going through the Peers first before said assent, in matters the Emperor deems necessary for this bypassage. This may be overturned by a unanimous vote in the Assembly of Peers, which then brings the bill to the Peerage.

In contrast to the Speaker, who is elected by Parliament from amongst itself and confirmed by the Emperor, the Lord-Speaker is elected by the Assembly of Peers, though can only be dismissed by the Emperor.

Inheritance of Noble Titles

6. All members of the nobility with an hereditary title will pass on that title to their next of kin, or to another member of the family should a will be signed. Should no will be signed before the passing of an individual with titles, including family heads, all titles will be handed to the oldest surviving member of the family. Should no surviving members of the family exist, all titles will be given to the Crown to be distributed.

Whereas the death, retirement, abdication or incapability of a Duke, Prince, Earl or Viscount of a Sarovian Dukedom, Princedom, Earldom or Viscounty, the succession of the position shall be passed to the eldest child of the former noble. If there is no willing child to take the position and swear fealty to the Emperor, the demesne and title is revoked and able to be distributed to whomever the Emperor sees fit.

Investiture of Noble Titles

7. Every noble title will have its own investiture ceremony. All members of an Order of Chivalry, including All Knights of the Most Noble Order of the New Sarovian Empire (OSE) and all Knights of the Most Exalted Grand Order of the Vasas (OV), have their investiture documents outlined in their Charter.

For all members of the Nobility, they will be brought to an official residence of the Emperor or palace to take the Oath of Nobility, seen below:

“I humbly present myself to Your Imperial Majesty as I do become your liege man of life and limb, to be your servant in all earthly things, I will live and die against all Your foes, so help me Stefan.”

Succession of Noble Titles

8. All noble titles may not exclude a certain sex or gender inheritance, though with approval from His Imperial Majesty, may change the method of succession from primogeniture to other forms of succession.

*©His Imperial Majesty the King of the Sarovians and
Emperor of the Sarovian Commonwealth, represented
by the Imperial Parliament and Ministry of
Public Works and Government Services.*