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# **UK Government Wins Vote To Cap Household Benefits**

Members of Parliament in the UK have backed the coalition government's plans for a £26,000 annual cap on overall household benefits, overturning a key defeat in the House of Lords. It was agreed by MPs that child benefits should be included as part of the cap.

MPs have now overturned five out of seven defeats which peers in the House of Lords have inflicted on the Bill. A group of bishops had tabled an amendment to it, which would have meant that child benefits would not be capped if it had been approved by MPs. However, they voted 334 to 251 to overturn the amendment.

The limit on benefits is one of the most high profile changes in the British government's controversial Welfare Reform Bill. Ministers have stated that it will result in benefits being in line with the average income of working households in the UK.

The government has also said that some exemptions to the maximum amount of benefits will remain, for example, people who currently receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and those that receive Working Tax Credits, won't suffer caps to the amount that they earn.

Along with the bishops who tabled amendments in the Lords, other groups have disagreed with the Bill. The opposition party meanwhile, Labour, have said that they support the basic idea of introducing a benefit cap, but argue that local caps, set by an independent commission, should be put in place instead of one national cap.

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