

Elections Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Clause 14

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 21, line 15, at end insert –

“(5) This section expires at the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which the Elections Act 2022 is passed.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would prevent a strategy and policy statement more than 12 months after this Act is passed.

Page 21, line 15, at end insert –

“(5) A statement designated under this section must not be published until a draft statement has been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This probing amendment would mean that a draft strategy and policy statement must be approved by both Houses of Parliament.

Page 22, line 18, at end insert –

“(f) civil society groups.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would mean that the Secretary of State must consult civil society groups on the draft of the strategy and policy statement.

Page 22, line 18, at end insert –

“(f) trade unions.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would mean that the Secretary of State must consult trade unions on the draft of the strategy and policy statement.

Page 22, line 18, at end insert –

“(f) representatives of local government.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would mean that the Secretary of State must consult representatives of local government on the draft of the strategy and policy statement.

Page 23, line 34, leave out “5” and insert “2”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would probe the time period of reviews of the statement.

Clause 17

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 27, line 33, after “money” insert “greater than a peppercorn”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would probe the provisions which prevent the Commission from borrowing money.

After Clause 18

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Insert the following new Clause –

“Guidance to candidates on notional expenditure

The Secretary of State must publish new guidance to candidates on notional expenditure within the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”

Clause 21

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 31, line 33, leave out “such period as the Commission think fit” and insert “20 years”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would probe how long a copy must be available for.

Clause 22

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 32, line 26, at end insert –

“(12) The Secretary of State must take all reasonable steps to inform all recognised third parties of the impact of the provisions of this section.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would probe what steps the government has taken to inform third parties of the impact of this section.

Clause 24

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 33, line 33, leave out “£700” and insert “£699”

Member’s explanatory statement*This amendment would probe the decision to limit expenses at £700.***Schedule 1**

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 79, line 17, after “means” insert “a birth certificate, or”

Member’s explanatory statement*This amendment would expand the list of specified documents to include a birth certificate.*

Page 80, line 31, at end insert –

“passes which are not publicly funded | a Senior Railcard”

Member’s explanatory statement*This amendment would expand the list of relevant concessionary travel passes to include a Senior Railcard.***Clause 4**

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 2, line 12, after “person” insert “knowingly”

Member’s explanatory statement*This amendment would mean that an offence is only committed if the person knowingly handles a post voting document.*

Page 2, line 19, at end insert –

“(ba) the person is engaged in the business of a printer, or”

Member’s explanatory statement*This amendment would ensure that an offence is not committed if a printing worker handles a postal voting document.*

Page 2, line 25, after “parent” insert “legal guardian”

Member’s explanatory statement*This amendment would ensure that an offence is not committed if the person handling the postal voting document is their legal guardian.*

Page 3, line 20, at end insert –

“(i) the person has made a donation to the political campaign of a candidate at the election.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment expands the definition of political campaigner, for the purposes of post voting offences, to include those who have donated to the campaign.

Clause 7

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 9, line 13, after “communicate” insert “, or attempt to communicate”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment expands the offence to include attempting to communicate the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of a ballot paper sent to a person for voting by post at a relevant election.

Page 9, line 28, at end insert –

“(e) obtain or attempt to obtain information, or communicate at any time to any other person any information, as to whether a person voting by post at a relevant election has spoilt their ballot.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment expands the offence to include those who obtain or attempt to obtain information, or communicate at any time to any other person any information, as to whether a person voting by post at a relevant election has spoilt their ballot.

Clause 9

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 11, line 29, leave out from beginning to end of line 9 on page 12 and insert –

“(a) in paragraph (3A)(b), for “a device” substitute “equipment”;

(b) after paragraph (3A)(b) insert –

“(c) such equipment as it is reasonable to provide for the purposes of enabling, or making it easier for, relevant persons to vote in the manner directed by rule 37.”;

(c) after paragraph (3A) insert –

“(3B) In paragraph (3A)(c), “relevant persons” means persons who find it difficult or impossible to vote in the manner directed by rule 37 because of a disability.””

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would retain the requirement for returning officers to make specific provision at polling stations to enable voters who are blind or partially-sighted to vote without any need for assistance from the presiding officer or any companion and change the nature of that provision from “a device” to “equipment”.

Clause 11

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 12, line 35, at end insert –

“(6A) Subsections (1) to (6) expire 10 days after the next elections for Mayor of London after this Act is passed.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This probing amendment would mean that the simple majority system is only used for the next Mayor of London election.

Page 13, line 30, leave out subsections (16) to (18)

Member’s explanatory statement

This probing amendment would delete provisions which would ensure a simple majority system when there are three or more candidates for a Police and Crime Commissioner election.

Clause 12

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 14, line 34, at end insert –

“(c) on that date a red notice has not been issued in respect of the individual by Interpol.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This probing amendment would prevent those who have been issued a red notice by Interpol from being overseas electors.

Page 14, line 36, after “past” insert “50 years”

Member’s explanatory statement

This probing amendment would limit overseas electors to those who had been entered in an electoral register in respect of an address at a place that is situated within the constituency in the past 50 years.

Page 16, line 28, at end insert –

“(aa) state that the declarant has never committed an offence under the Representation of the People Act 1983,”

Member’s explanatory statement

This probing amendment would ensure that an overseas elector’s declaration must also state that the declarant has never committed an offence under the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Page 19, line 33, at end insert –

“(g) state that the declarant has never knowingly been subject to sanctions under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment intends to probe the relationship between sanctions legislation and renewal declarations.

Clause 28

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 40, line 34, leave out "5" and insert "25"

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would probe the decision to disqualify for 5 years.

Clause 32

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 44, line 27, at end insert –

“(iii) fundraising for a registered party at a relevant election,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would include fundraising as an activity undertaken “for election purposes”.

Clause 33

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 46, line 4, at end insert –

“(1A) If a person who is subject to a disqualification order is elected as a member of the House of Commons, a Minister of the Crown must lay a statement before each House of Parliament with details of the disqualification order.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure a Minister of the Crown publishes details of the disqualification order.

Clause 34

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 46, line 14, leave out “varying or”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would probe the government's intention to vary offences.

After Clause 59

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Insert the following new Clause –

“Review and consolidation of electoral law

Within 12 months of the passing of this Act, the Secretary of State must publish a timetable for undertaking a wholesale review and consolidation of electoral law.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would implement a recommendation of the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee in its report on the Elections Bill.

Clause 64

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Page 65, line 27, at end insert –

“(1A) Schedule 8 may not come into force until the Secretary of State has made a statement to Parliament on voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment intends to probe the government's position on voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens.

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