

# Elections Bill

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## AMENDMENTS

### TO BE MOVED

#### IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

*[Supplementary to the Fourth Marshalled List]*

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Amendment  
No.

#### After Clause 11

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

144F★

Insert the following new Clause –

**“Return of election deposits where a candidate's party elects at least one MP**

- (1) Rule 53 of Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 (forfeiture of deposit) is amended as follows.
- (2) After paragraph (3) insert –  
“(3A) Where a candidate has been authorised to use a party description under rule 6A of these rules, the deposit shall be returned as soon as practicable after any candidate using the same party description is elected in any constituency at that general election.”
- (3) In paragraph (4) after “paragraph (3)” insert “and (3A)”.

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This amendment would return the election deposits to all general election candidates whose registered party elects at least one MP.*

#### After Clause 59

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

212F★

Insert the following new Clause –

**“Review of impact of election deposits on democratic participation**

- (1) Within 12 months of this Act being passed, the Secretary of State must publish a review of the impact of election deposits on democratic participation.
- (2) The review in subsection (1) must include consideration of the following questions –
  - (a) how much money is lost by candidates from each political party, and what proportion of each party's total expenditure is lost, in deposits;
  - (b) what aims provision about election deposits seeks to achieve, and to what extent those aims are achieved;

**After Clause 59 - continued**

- (c) whether there are alternative ways to achieve the aims outlined in paragraph (b) which might be more effective or more proportionate or have a lesser impact on the finances of candidates and parties.”

***Member’s explanatory statement***

*This amendment would require the Government to review election deposits and explore alternatives that do not disproportionately impact the finances of smaller parties and independent candidates.*

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*18 March 2022*

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