Representation of the People Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL

AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tabled up to and including

15 October 2026

The amendments are listed in accordance with the following Instruction –

Clauses 1 to 6	Clause 61
Schedule 1	Schedules 9 and 10
Clauses 7 to 19	Clause 62
Schedule 2	Schedules 11 and 12
Clauses 20 to 49	Clause 63
Schedule 3	Schedule 13
Clauses 50 to 53	Clauses 64 and 65
Schedule 4	Schedule 14
Clause 54	Clauses 66 to 69
Schedule 5	Schedule 15
Clauses 55 and 56	Clauses 70 to 74
Schedule 6	Schedule 16
Clauses 57 and 58	Clause 75
Schedule 7	Schedule 17
Clauses 59 and 60	Clauses 76 to 91
Schedule 8	Title

[*Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered*]

Clause 1

BARONESS COFFEY

Clause 1, page 1, line 7, leave out "16" and insert "17"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to probe why 16 has been chosen as the age for voting in elections.

Clause 2

LORD FROST

Clause 2, page 2, line 19, leave out "in England"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Frost, seeks to make the Representation of the People Act 1983 franchise, as amended by this Act, the franchise for all statutory elections, referendums and polls in the United Kingdom, except City of London ward elections. It would abolish the Scotland-only and Wales-only franchise variants and make the franchise a wholly reserved matter.

LORD FROST

Clause 2, page 3, line 3, leave out paragraph (b)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Frost, seeks to make the Representation of the People Act 1983 franchise, as amended by this Act, the franchise for all statutory elections, referendums and polls in the United Kingdom, except City of London ward elections. It would abolish the Scotland-only and Wales-only franchise variants and make the franchise a wholly reserved matter.

After Clause 2

LORD FROST
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause—

"Franchise for elections and referendums in the United Kingdom

(1) The persons entitled to vote in the United Kingdom are—
  (a) at an election for membership of the House of Commons, and at a referendum held under an Act of Parliament throughout the United Kingdom or throughout any of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, those who have the parliamentary franchise;
  (b) at any other election, referendum or poll held under an enactment at which entitlement to vote is determined by reference to a register of electors, other than a City of London ward election, those who have the local government franchise.

(2) A person has the parliamentary franchise if entitled to vote as an elector at a parliamentary election under section 1 of RPA 1983, and has the local government franchise if entitled to vote as an elector at a local government election under section 2 of RPA 1983 or, in Northern Ireland, section 1 of the Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Act 1989; and in relation to a referendum or poll the entitlement is to be judged by reference to the area in which the referendum or poll is held.

(3) Subsection (1) is subject to any requirement as to registration applying to the election, referendum or poll.

(4) In RPA 1983—

(a) in section 2(1) (local government electors), in each of its territorial versions, for paragraph (c) substitute—

'(c) is a Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights; and';

(b) in section 3 (disfranchisement of offenders in prison etc), omit subsections (1A) and (1B);

(c) in section 4(3) (entitlement to be registered as local government elector), in each of its territorial versions, for paragraph (c) substitute—

'(c) is a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights; and'.

(5) Sections 203A and 203B of, and Schedule 6A to, RPA 1983 extend to Scotland.

(6) A provision of an enactment, or of an instrument made under an enactment, has no effect so far as it is inconsistent with this section.

(7) In this section "enactment" includes an Act of the Scottish Parliament, an Act or Measure of Senedd Cymru and Northern Ireland legislation."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Frost, seeks to make the Representation of the People Act 1983 franchise, as amended by this Act, the franchise for all statutory elections, referendums and polls in the United Kingdom, except City of London ward elections. It would abolish the Scotland-only and Wales-only franchise variants and make the franchise a wholly reserved matter.

LORD FROST
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause—

"Franchise to be a reserved matter

(1) In Schedule 5 to the Scotland Act 1998 (reserved matters), in Section B3, in the entry headed "(B) Elections for membership of the Parliament and local government elections in Scotland", at the end insert—

"The persons entitled to vote at elections for membership of the Parliament, at local government elections in Scotland and at referendums and polls held in Scotland."

(2) In Schedule 4 to that Act (enactments etc protected from modification), in paragraph 4(2)(a)(iii), for "sections 3 to 12" substitute "sections 3 to 10 and 12".

(3) In Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (reserved matters), in Section B1, after paragraph 27 insert—

"27A The persons entitled to vote at elections for membership of the Senedd, at local government elections in Wales and at referendums and polls held in Wales."

(4) In Schedule 7B to that Act (general restrictions on legislative competence), in paragraph 7(2)(a)(v), for "sections 4 to 20" substitute "sections 4 to 11 and 13 to 20"."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Frost, seeks to make the Representation of the People Act 1983 franchise, as amended by this Act, the franchise for all statutory elections, referendums and polls in the United Kingdom, except City of London ward elections. It would abolish the Scotland-only and Wales-only franchise variants and make the franchise a wholly reserved matter.

Schedule 1

BARONESS COFFEY

Schedule 1, page 129, line 16, leave out paragraphs 4 to 6

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and another in the name of Baroness Coffey, removes exemptions for child voters regarding various duties of election and registration officials.

BARONESS COFFEY

Schedule 1, page 130, line 13, leave out paragraph 11

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and another in the name of Baroness Coffey, removes exemptions for child voters regarding various duties of election and registration officials.

BARONESS COFFEY

Baroness Coffey gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Schedule 1 be the First Schedule to the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition to Schedule 1 seeks to allow debate on the impact of the schedule's differential age-based rules.

After Clause 16

LORD YOUNG OF ACTON

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Access to content of democratic importance, news publisher content and journalistic content related to elections

(1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must consider what primary and secondary legislation may need to be amended to ensure under-18 year-olds have access to online content of democratic importance, news publisher content and journalistic content relating to elections.

(2) In particular, the Secretary of State must consider whether current legislation restricts access to online content of democratic importance, news publisher content and journalistic content related to elections to individuals aged 18 and over."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to propose a review of whether existing legislation should be amended where it currently "age-gates" online democratic, news publisher and journalistic content related to elections to those aged 18 and over, given that the bill proposes to lower the voting age to 16.

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE
LORD RENNARD

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Report on supporting the extension of the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds

(1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, publish a report on the extension of the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds under this Act.

(2) The report published under subsection (1) must include evaluation of—
  (a) measures to promote awareness among relevant persons of the extension of the franchise,
  (b) progress in any necessary changes required to strengthen civic education in schools and educational settings available to relevant persons, and
  (c) the registration of—
    (i) 18 to 25 year olds,
    (ii) 16 and 17 year olds, and
    (iii) 14 and 15 year olds.

(3) For the purposes of this section, relevant persons are children and young people who—
  (a) are enfranchised as a result of section 1, or
  (b) are entitled to be registered as a parliamentary or local government elector before reaching voting age as a result of section 3.

(4) The Secretary of State must lay the report before both Houses of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause requires the Government to report on proposals to support the extension of the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds, through promoting awareness or making changes required to strengthen civic education.

LORD FARMER

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Assessment of decision-making capabilities of young voters

The Secretary of State must publish an assessment of the evidence relating to the decision-making capabilities of 16 and 17 year olds in relation to the extended right to vote, including a comparison between the maturity and capacity for independent decision-making of 16 and 17 year olds and that of persons aged 18 or over."

LORD FROST

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"PART 1A

NATIONALITY QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING

Nationality qualification for voting and registration

(1) A person is not entitled to vote as an elector at a relevant poll unless the person is—
  (a) a British citizen,
  (b) a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or
  (c) a protected EU elector in relation to that poll.

(2) Subsection (1) applies also to entitlement to be registered, or to remain registered, for the purposes of a relevant poll.

(3) A person is a protected EU elector in relation to a relevant poll if—
  (a) the person meets the requirements in subsections (1)(a) to (d) of section 203B of RPA 1983 (meaning of "EU citizen with retained rights") , disregarding paragraph (e) of that subsection, and
  (b) under the law governing the poll, apart from this Part, the person would satisfy the nationality qualification otherwise than by virtue of being a Commonwealth citizen.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(a), section 203B of RPA 1983 (meaning of "EU citizen with retained rights") is to be read as if it extended to the whole of the United Kingdom.

(5) In this Part "relevant poll" means—

(a) an election for membership of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru or the Northern Ireland Assembly,
(b) a local government election anywhere in the United Kingdom,
(c) a City of London ward election, and
(d) any other election, referendum or poll held under an enactment at which entitlement to vote is determined by reference to a register of parliamentary or local government electors.

(6) This section applies to entitlement to sign a recall petition under the Recall of MPs Act 2015 as it applies to entitlement to vote at an election for membership of the House of Commons.

(7) In this Part—
(a) references to registration include inclusion in a City of London ward list, and
(b) "enactment" includes an Act of the Scottish Parliament, an Act or Measure of Senedd Cymru, Northern Ireland legislation and subordinate legislation.

(8) Other voting rights provisions are to be interpreted consistently with this section."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Part and its consequential changes would remove voting and registration rights based solely on Commonwealth citizenship throughout the United Kingdom, while preserving those of British and Irish citizens and the existing non-parliamentary rights of the pre-2021 EU retained-rights cohort. It provides for registration review and appeals, and protects the new provisions from modification by the devolved legislatures.

LORD FROST

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Administration and protection of nationality qualifications

(1) The Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for the administration of section (*Nationality qualification for voting and registration*).

(2) Regulations under subsection (1) must provide for—
(a) the review of existing registrations and the determination of new registrations,
(b) proportionate evidence of citizenship and of the matters referred to in section 203B of RPA 1983 (meaning of "EU citizen with retained rights"), using information already lawfully held where sufficient,
(c) notice of any proposed refusal or removal, reasons, an opportunity to make representations, and an appeal applying existing electoral registration appeal procedures with necessary modifications, and
(d) the marking of registers to show the descriptions of poll at which a person is entitled to vote.

(3) Regulations under subsection (1) may apply, with modifications, existing enactments concerning registration, registers and absent voting, but may not alter

the qualifications imposed by section (*Nationality qualification for voting and registration*).

(4) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult—

(a) the Electoral Commission,

(b) the Scottish Ministers and the Welsh Ministers,

(c) the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland,

(d) the Town Clerk of the City of London, and

(e) such representatives of registration officers as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(5) The Secretary of State must lay the first draft regulations under subsection (1) before Parliament within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed.

(6) Regulations under subsection (1) are to be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

(7) In Schedule 7B to the Government of Wales Act 2006, at the end of the table in paragraph 5(1) insert—

"Representation of the People Act 2026	Part 1A and regulations made under that Part."

(8) In Schedule 4 to the Scotland Act 1998, at the end of paragraph 1(2) insert—

"(i) Part 1A of the Representation of the People Act 2026, and regulations made under that Part."."

Member's explanatory statement

This new Part and its consequential changes would remove voting and registration rights based solely on Commonwealth citizenship throughout the United Kingdom, while preserving those of British and Irish citizens and the existing non-parliamentary rights of the pre-2021 EU retained-rights cohort. It provides for registration review and appeals, and protects the new provisions from modification by the devolved legislatures.

LORD FROST

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"PART 1A

NATIONALITY QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING

Nationality qualification for voting and registration (No. 2)

(1) A person is not entitled to vote as an elector at a relevant poll unless the person is—

(a) a British citizen,

(b) a citizen of the Republic of Ireland,
(c) a protected EU elector in relation to that poll, or
(d) a reciprocal Commonwealth elector in relation to that poll within the meaning of section (*Reciprocal voting rights for Commonwealth citizens*).

(2) Subsection (1) applies also to entitlement to be registered, or to remain registered, for the purposes of a relevant poll.

(3) A person is a protected EU elector in relation to a relevant poll if—
(a) the person either—
(i) meets the requirements in subsections (1)(a) to (d) of section 203B of RPA 1983 (meaning of "EU citizen with retained rights"), disregarding paragraph (e) of that subsection, or
(ii) is a qualifying EU citizen within the meaning of section 203A(1) of RPA 1983 (meaning of "qualifying EU citizen"), and
(b) under the law governing the poll, apart from this Part, the person would satisfy the nationality qualification otherwise than by virtue of being a Commonwealth citizen.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(a), sections 203A and 203B of, and Schedule 6A to, RPA 1983 are to be read as if they extended to the whole of the United Kingdom.

(5) In this Part "relevant poll" means—
(a) an election for membership of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru or the Northern Ireland Assembly,
(b) a local government election anywhere in the United Kingdom,
(c) a City of London ward election, and
(d) any other election, referendum or poll held under an enactment at which entitlement to vote is determined by reference to a register of parliamentary or local government electors.

(6) This section applies to entitlement to sign a recall petition under the Recall of MPs Act 2015 as it applies to entitlement to vote at an election for membership of the House of Commons.

(7) In this Part—
(a) references to registration include inclusion in a City of London ward list, and
(b) "enactment" includes an Act of the Scottish Parliament, an Act or Measure of Senedd Cymru, Northern Ireland legislation and subordinate legislation.

(8) Other voting rights provisions are to be interpreted consistently with this section."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Part and its consequential amendments would replace automatic Commonwealth voting eligibility with eligibility for citizens of Commonwealth countries designated as giving British citizens corresponding voting rights. It preserves British and Irish rights, and non-parliamentary rights for the pre-2021 EU cohort and for qualifying EU citizens under bilateral agreements, and protects the provisions from devolved modification.

LORD FROST

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Reciprocal voting rights for Commonwealth citizens

(1) The Secretary of State must by regulations designate countries for the purposes of section (*Nationality qualification for voting and registration (No. 2)*).

(2) A person is a reciprocal Commonwealth elector in relation to a relevant poll if the person—

(a) is a qualifying Commonwealth citizen within the meaning of section 4(6) of RPA 1983,

(b) is a citizen of a country designated under this section for that poll or for a description of polls which includes it, and

(c) meets the personal conditions specified in the designation.

(3) The Secretary of State must designate a country mentioned in Schedule 3 to the British Nationality Act 1981 (countries whose citizens are Commonwealth citizens) for a relevant poll or description of polls where, and only so far as, satisfied that—

(a) the law of that country gives British citizens who are not also citizens of that country an enforceable and effectively exercisable right to vote at corresponding polls, and

(b) equivalent substantive conditions for the exercise of that right can lawfully be applied to citizens of that country in the United Kingdom.

(4) A designation must specify the corresponding foreign polls, the relevant United Kingdom polls, any territorial or personal limitation and equivalent personal conditions, including, where applicable, minimum age, the nature and duration of residence, immigration or settled status, and any restriction to a class defined by historical residence or registration.

(5) Before making, varying or removing a designation, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament and publish an assessment of the foreign law and its operation, the proposed corresponding polls and conditions, and the reasons for the proposed regulations.

(6) The Secretary of State must review each designation at least annually.

(7) Regulations under this section are to be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement

This new Part and its consequential amendments would replace automatic Commonwealth voting eligibility with eligibility for citizens of Commonwealth countries designated as giving British citizens corresponding voting rights. It preserves British and Irish rights, and non-parliamentary rights for the pre-2021 EU cohort and for qualifying EU citizens under bilateral agreements, and protects the provisions from devolved modification.

LORD FROST

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Administration and protection of nationality qualifications (No. 2)

(1) The Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for the administration of section (*Nationality qualification for voting and registration (No. 2)*).

(2) Regulations under subsection (1) must provide for—

(a) the review of existing registrations and the determination of new registrations,

(b) proportionate evidence of citizenship, of the matters referred to in sections 203A and 203B of RPA 1983 (meaning of "qualifying EU citizen" and "EU citizen with retained rights") and of any personal conditions specified in a designation under section (*Reciprocal voting rights for Commonwealth citizens*), using information already lawfully held where sufficient,

(c) notice of any proposed refusal or removal, reasons, an opportunity to make representations, and an appeal applying existing electoral registration appeal procedures with necessary modifications, and

(d) the marking of registers to show the descriptions of poll at which a person is entitled to vote.

(3) Regulations under subsection (1) may apply, with modifications, existing enactments concerning registration, registers and absent voting, but may not alter the qualifications or reciprocity requirements imposed by sections (*Nationality qualification for voting and registration (No. 2)*) and (*Reciprocal voting rights for Commonwealth citizens*).

(4) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult—

(a) the Electoral Commission,

(b) the Scottish Ministers and the Welsh Ministers,

(c) the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland,

(d) the Town Clerk of the City of London, and

(e) such representatives of registration officers as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(5) The Secretary of State must lay the first draft regulations under subsection (1), and the first draft regulations under section (*Reciprocal voting rights for Commonwealth citizens*), before Parliament within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed.

(6) Regulations under subsection (1) are to be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

(7) In Schedule 7B to the Government of Wales Act 2006, at the end of the table in paragraph 5(1) insert—

"Representation of the People Act 2026	Part 1A and regulations made under that Part."

(8) In Schedule 4 to the Scotland Act 1998, at the end of paragraph 1(2) insert—

"(i) Part 1A of the Representation of the People Act 2026, and regulations made under that Part."."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Part and its consequential amendments would replace automatic Commonwealth voting eligibility with eligibility for citizens of Commonwealth countries designated as giving British citizens corresponding voting rights. It preserves British and Irish rights, and non-parliamentary rights for the pre-2021 EU cohort and for qualifying EU citizens under bilateral agreements, and protects the provisions from devolved modification.

LORD BLUNKETT

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Members of the House of Lords: entitlement to vote

A person aged 16 or over who is registered as a parliamentary elector is entitled to vote at a UK parliamentary election, unless disqualified from voting by virtue of sections 3 or 3A of the Representation of the People Act 1983."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would allow sitting members of the House of Lords to vote in general elections.

Clause 17

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

Clause 17, page 23, line 23, at end insert—

"(f) the person's existence has been properly verified using three separate datasets used for national and local data matching."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the registration officer to register certain electors only when their existence has been verified through three different datasets.

BARONESS COFFEY

Baroness Coffey gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 17 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition to Clause 17 seeks to allow a debate on the benefits and risks of auto-enrolment.

After Clause 19

LORD PACK

After Clause 19, insert the following new Clause—

"Publication of voter registration and application statistics

(1) The Secretary of State shall make available to the public data they hold concerning—

(a) the number of applications made by persons seeking to be registered in a relevant register;

(b) the number of persons that have been registered in a relevant register under section 12A(1) of RPA 1983.

(2) Those data may, in particular, include the aggregate number of applications and registrations falling within subsection (1) in each individual electoral ward and electoral division, as well as at the national level.

(3) In this section, "relevant register" has the same meaning as in section 12A of RPA 1983."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would permit the Secretary of State to publish data on voter registrations at the level of individual wards.

Clause 21

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

Clause 21, page 33, line 33, at end insert—

"(8) Voter registration provision does not mean any provision which amends the franchise for UK parliamentary elections or local elections in England."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment prevents the voter registration pilots being used to amend the franchise.

After Clause 25

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
LORD PACK

After Clause 25, insert the following new Clause—

"Plan for implementation of registration without an application

(1) The Secretary of State must prepare and publish a plan for the implementation of Part 2.

(2) The Secretary of State must comply with subsection (1) within the period of two months beginning with the day on which this section of this Act comes into force.

(3) The Secretary of State must lay a copy of the plan before Parliament.

(4) The plan must set out—

(a) the steps that the Secretary of State plans to take to facilitate the registration of persons registered under section 12A of RPA 1983, including the dates by which each step will be completed,

(b) when the Secretary of State expects any pilot regulations made under section 20 to be laid before each House of Parliament, and

(c) a projection of the number of additional persons registered by 15 August 2029 as a consequence of the implementation (in part or in full) of Part 2."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Secretary of State to publish a plan for implementation of registration without an application.

After Clause 38

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause—

"Electoral register: British nationals abroad

(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument introduce a system to give overseas electors the option to register to vote when they renew their British passport online.

(2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Clause would allow the Secretary of State to regulate to introduce a system to allow overseas electors the ability to register to vote when they renew their passport online.

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
LORD FOULKES OF CUMNOCK
LORD KINNOCK

After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause—

"Compulsory voting

(1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which section 17 comes into force, publish and lay before both Houses of Parliament proposals for introducing a compulsory duty to vote at UK parliamentary elections and local elections in England for individuals who are registered to vote.

(2) Proposals published under this section relating to compulsory voting must include—

(a) provision for electors to be able to mark an abstention, either through returning a spoilt or blank ballot,

(b) provision for the failure to vote to be punishable through a penalty fine of £10,

(c) provision for certain exemptions to be made for those who are prevented from participating in an election, including—

(i) those with a physical or mental incapacity, illness, or disability,

(ii) those who are absent from the UK, and

(iii) those with a sincerely held conscientious or religious belief, and

(d) provision for pilots of compulsory voting in connection with any pilots undertaken under section 20."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause seeks to require the Secretary of State to bring forward proposals for compulsory voting, including piloting compulsory voting in connection with any pilots of changes to voter registration process.

After Clause 40

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

★ After Clause 40, insert the following new Clause—

"Presiding officers: powers to challenge suspected personation

(1) In Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (parliamentary elections rules), after rule 37(1G) insert—

"(1H) Where a presiding officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that a person applying for a ballot paper is committing or attempting to commit an offence under section 60 (personation), the presiding officer may, in addition to the questions in paragraph (1) of rule 35—

(a) put such further questions relating to the entry in the register as the presiding officer considers necessary to establish whether the person is the elector named in it,

(b) require the person to produce further evidence of identity or address,

(c) require the person's identity to be verified a second time, in private if the person asks, by a second member of polling station staff,

(d) refuse to deliver a ballot paper if the person does not satisfy the presiding officer of their identity, and

(e) request the attendance of a constable.

(1I) Reasonable grounds under paragraph (1H) must rest on matters observed at the polling station or on information in the register and may not rest solely on a protected characteristic within section 4 of the Equality Act 2010, or on the person's language, dress or accent.

(1J) A presiding officer who exercises a power under paragraph (1H) must—

(a) record the reasons in writing at the time, and

(b) tell the person they may return before the close of the poll with further evidence of identity.

(1K) A presiding officer who acts in good faith under this rule is not liable in civil proceedings for doing so."

(2) The Electoral Commission must issue a code of practice on the exercise of powers under rule 37(1H), and returning officers must ensure presiding officers are trained in it.

(3) After each general election and each local or devolved election, returning officers must report to the Electoral Commission the number of challenges, refusals and referrals to police, and the Commission must publish a summary.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations make equivalent provision for other elections and referendums to which this Act applies.

(5) Regulations under this section are to be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Clause strengthens presiding officers' ability to prevent in-person personation, with safeguards against discriminatory or arbitrary use.

After Clause 46

LORD BLUNKETT

After Clause 46, insert the following new Clause—

"Local election candidates: disclosure of dismissal

After rule 6 in Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 (nomination of candidates) insert—

"6ZA A person is not validly nominated as a candidate for a local election unless they have made a declaration stating whether or not they have

previously been dismissed as an employee of that authority or a predecessor authority.""

Clause 48

BARONESS COFFEY

Clause 48, page 60, line 22, leave out paragraph (b)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and another in the name of Baroness Coffey, removes bank cards as a form of voter identification.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

Clause 48, page 60, line 31, at end insert—

"(iv) is issued subject to a search of a consumer's credit file conducted in connection with the issuance of the card, which is recorded on the individual's credit file and is visible to other lenders."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would ensure that only payment cards and cash withdrawal cards that are issued subject to a search of a consumer's credit file conducted in the way set out in the amendment would be able to be used as voter ID.

BARONESS COFFEY

Clause 48, page 61, line 1, leave out subsections (4) to (6)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and another in the name of Baroness Coffey, removes bank cards as a form of voter identification.

BARONESS COFFEY

Clause 48, page 61, line 34, leave out subsections (8) and (9)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment retains the requirement for voter identification to have a photograph.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Clause 48 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This would mean that the requirement for showing photographic ID at polling stations would remain, and removes the part of the Bill which allows for certain payment cards to be used as ID.

After Clause 48

LORD FROST
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause—

"Protection against controlling and coercive in-person voting

(1) Section 62C of RPA 1983 (influencing voters at polling booths) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (4), for "under this section" substitute "under subsection (1) or (2)".

(3) After subsection (5) insert—

"(6) Subject to subsection (8), the presiding officer must take reasonable steps to ensure that each voter is alone at a polling booth while marking a ballot paper, and may require a person accompanying the voter to withdraw from the booth.

(7) Where the presiding officer has reasonable grounds, based on specific conduct observed by or reported to the officer, to believe that a person in the polling station is engaging in or attempting to engage in any of the following conduct—

(a) observing how another voter marks a ballot paper,
(b) directing or controlling how another voter votes,
(c) intimidating another voter in connection with voting, or
(d) preventing another voter from communicating their own wishes to polling staff,

the officer may direct that person to cease the conduct, move away from the voter or polling booth, or wait in a specified part of the polling station for a specified period, without preventing the person from leaving the station.

(8) A requirement under subsection (6) or a direction under subsection (7)—

(a) must be no more restrictive, and continue for no longer, than is reasonably necessary to protect the free and secret exercise of the vote,

(b) must not be based solely on persons arriving together, being related or otherwise associated, or using a particular language,

(c) must not prevent assistance lawfully provided under rule 38 or 39 of Schedule 1 or any other enactment, or the performance of a lawful duty by polling staff,

(d) must not prevent a person admitted to the polling station under rule 32(1)(b) of Schedule 1, or a corresponding provision of any other enactment, from accompanying the voter, unless that person is engaging in conduct described in subsection (7)(b), (c) or (d), and

(e) must not deprive any person otherwise entitled to vote of an opportunity to do so, including a person entitled to vote under rule 37(7) of Schedule 1 or a corresponding provision of any other enactment.

(9) Nothing in subsections (6) to (8) authorises an inquiry into a voter's political knowledge or reasons for a voting preference, or the refusal to issue, setting aside or refusal to count a ballot paper on grounds of language ability, literacy or understanding of the voting process.

(10) A presiding officer who requires a person to withdraw under subsection (6) or gives a direction under subsection (7) must—

(a) explain its terms and reasons to the person concerned, and warn that person that failure to comply may constitute an offence, and

(b) record its terms, reasons and duration, without recording any voter's voting preference, and report it to the returning officer as soon as practicable after the close of the poll.

(11) A person who knowingly and without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a requirement under subsection (6) or a direction under subsection (7) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale; but a person does not commit an offence under this subsection unless the presiding officer has first complied with subsection (10)(a) in relation to that person.""

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require presiding officers to secure individual voting at polling booths and allow proportionate directions against specified interference. It preserves lawful assistance and every eligible voter's opportunity to vote, requires directions to be explained, recorded and reported, and creates a fine-only offence of knowing non-compliance after a warning.

After Clause 49

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

After Clause 49, insert the following new Clause—

"Expired postal votes

(1) RPA 2000 is amended as follows.

(2) In Schedule 4, paragraph 3 (absent vote at elections for a period) after sub-paragraph (5) insert—

"(5A) In the case of a person whose entitlement to vote by post at elections of the kind in question has expired, the registration officer shall make available, upon request from a registered political party, that person's details as supplied to the registration officer in his or her application to vote by post in parliamentary elections.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would give registered political parties access to data on expired postal votes.

Schedule 3

LORD FROST
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

Schedule 3, page 147, line 24, at end insert—

"Postal voting: continuing eligibility

7H (1) An application under paragraph 3(1) may be granted only if the registration officer is satisfied that a condition in sub-paragraph (2) or (3) is met.

(2) The conditions are that the applicant—

(a) is or will be registered as a service voter, or is a member of the regular forces or reserve forces within the meaning of section 374 of the Armed Forces Act 2006,

(b) cannot reasonably be expected to attend the polling station allotted or likely to be allotted to the applicant, or to vote unaided there, because of blindness or other disability,

(c) cannot reasonably be expected to attend that polling station because of the general nature of the applicant's occupation, service or employment, or that of the applicant's spouse or civil partner,

(d) cannot travel from the qualifying address to that polling station without a journey by air or sea,

(e) has an anonymous entry in the register for the elections concerned, or is a person to whom paragraph 2(5A), (5B), (6) or (6ZA) applies, or

(f) holds an office or employment in the service of the Crown under the government of the United Kingdom, the Scottish Administration, the Welsh Government or a Northern Ireland department, and is required to perform duties outside the United Kingdom.

(3) For parliamentary elections, registration, or prospective registration, in pursuance of an overseas elector's declaration is also a qualifying condition.

Particular elections

7I An application under paragraph 4(1) may be granted only if the registration officer is satisfied that, on polling day, a condition in paragraph 7H(2) or (3) will or is likely to be met, or the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person at the polling station allotted or likely to be allotted to the applicant.

Postal voting by proxies

7J (1) An application under paragraph 7(4)(a) may be granted only if the registration officer is satisfied that a condition in paragraph 7H(2) or (3) applies to the applicant or that the distance from the applicant's usual residence makes attendance at the elector's allotted polling station unreasonable.

(2) An application under paragraph 7(4)(b) may be granted only if the registration officer is satisfied that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to attend the elector's allotted polling station on polling day.

Countersignatures

7K (1) An application under this Schedule for a postal vote or a change of postal delivery address, relying on a holiday, service qualification, membership of the armed forces, or the occupation, service or employment of the applicant or the applicant's spouse or civil partner, may be granted only if it includes a declaration countersigned by an independent person aged 18 or over of a prescribed description.

(2) The countersignatory must confirm that the facts supporting the application are true to the best of their knowledge and belief; and regulations must prescribe eligible countersignatories and requirements for the form, supporting evidence and verification of declarations.

Overseas delivery

7L (1) An application for a postal vote or a change of postal delivery address must specify a United Kingdom address unless the registration officer is satisfied that, on polling day, the applicant will or is likely to be—

(a) serving outside the United Kingdom as a member of the forces mentioned in paragraph 7H(2)(a), or

(b) outside the United Kingdom in connection with the duties mentioned in paragraph 7H(2)(f).

(2) For a continuing arrangement, those circumstances must be expected to continue during the period for which overseas delivery is authorised.

Administration and existing arrangements

7M (1) Paragraphs 7H to 7L impose additional conditions on applications under this Schedule.

(2) Regulations must provide for evidence of eligibility, notification of material changes and review and removal of postal-voting entries when the qualifying conditions cease to be met, including notice and an opportunity to make representations.

(3) Postal-voting arrangements in force when paragraphs 7H to 7L first apply to new applications for the kind of election concerned may continue notwithstanding those paragraphs for six months, unless they expire or are cancelled earlier; they cease at the end of that period unless replaced by arrangements granted on fresh applications complying with those paragraphs.

(4) The registration officer must give affected electors and proxies at least three months' notice of the requirement to reapply."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would restore a qualifying-grounds system for postal voting in Great Britain, based on pre-2001 eligibility. It requires countersignatures for holiday and work-related applications, restricts postal voting by proxies, limits overseas delivery to the armed forces and Crown servants abroad, and requires existing arrangements to be renewed within six months.

Clause 50

LORD PACK

Clause 50, page 62, line 29, leave out subsection (1) and insert—

"(1) The Electoral Commission may issue directions in writing requiring an officer specified in section 51 to provide the Electoral Commission with information about an election, referendum or recall petition process specified in section 52."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others to Clause 50 in the name of Lord Pack, allow the Electoral Commission to give directions requiring officers to provide information. This enables the Electoral Commission to respond quickly in a digital environment.

LORD PACK

Clause 50, page 62, line 33, leave out from beginning to "reasonably" in line 34 and insert "Directions under this section may only require the provision of information that the Electoral Commission"

Member's explanatory statement
This is consequential on Lord Pack's amendment to Clause 50, page 62, line 29.

LORD PACK
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

Clause 50, page 63, line 7, at end insert—

"(g) the number of persons who cast a ballot;
(h) the number of ballots cast for each candidate;
(i) the number of ballots cast for each party;
(j) the proportion of overall ballots cast for each candidate;
(k) the proportion of overall ballots cast for each party;
(l) the number of spoiled or rejected ballots;
(m) voter turnout at each polling station."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment sets out additional election-related information that could be required to be provided under regulations made under clause 50.

LORD PACK

Clause 50, page 63, line 8, leave out "Regulations" and insert "Directions"

Member's explanatory statement
This is consequential on Lord Pack's amendment to Clause 50, page 62, line 29.

LORD PACK

Clause 50, page 63, line 11, leave out "Regulations" and insert "Directions"

Member's explanatory statement
This is consequential on Lord Pack's amendment to Clause 50, page 62, line 29.

LORD PACK

Clause 50, page 63, line 16, leave out subsections (5) and (6) and insert—

"(5) The Electoral Commission must publish each direction it issues under subsection (1)."

Member's explanatory statement
This is consequential on Lord Pack's amendment to Clause 50, page 62, line 29.

After Clause 52

LORD PACK

After Clause 52, insert the following new Clause—

"Information included with electronic campaigning material

(1) Section 41 of the Elections Act 2022 is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (3), after paragraph (b), insert—

"(c) political campaign material"."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would require digital imprints to identify content as political campaign material, helping distinguish such content from other online material.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 52, insert the following new Clause—

"Review of the impact of this Act on voting systems at relevant elections

(1) The Electoral Commission must establish an independent review of the impact of changes made by this Act on the suitability of the voting systems used at relevant elections ("the review").

(2) The review must consider, in relation to each voting system used at a relevant election—

(a) how far persons who become entitled to vote, or to be registered, by virtue of section 1 and 3 respectively are able to understand how to vote and how their votes will be counted, having regard to the steps taken under sections 15 and 16 and the information provided under sections 50 to 52;

(b) the proportion of votes cast by persons aged 16 and 17 that contribute to the election of a candidate;

(c) the effect of the following on participation in the election and on the number of ballot papers rejected—

(i) the voter identification requirement, as amended by section 48,

(ii) the arrangements for absent voting under section 49 and Schedule 3, and

(iii) registration without an application under sections 17 and 18 and Schedule 2;

(d) the effect of any pilot regulations made under section 20 or 28, and the conclusions of any report of the Electoral Commission under section 24 or 29, so far as relevant to the voting system;

(e) the effect of Part 1, sections 17, 18, 20, 28, 48 to 52 and Schedules 2 and 3 on the proportionality or disproportionality of the election measured by

a range of proportionality measures including the Loosemore-Hanby, Gallagher and Sainte-Laguë indexes;

(f) any other matters related to the impact of this Act which the Electoral Commission considers relevant.

(3) The Electoral Commission may consult—

(a) the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and the Northern Ireland departments;

(b) the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland, registration officers and returning officers, or bodies representing them;

(c) organisations representing young people;

(d) any other person the Electoral Commission considers appropriate.

(4) The review must report to the Secretary of State no later than 12 months after the polling day on which the first general election is held after section 1 comes into force.

(5) The Secretary of State must—

(a) lay the report before Parliament, and

(b) within three months beginning with the day on which it is laid, make a statement to Parliament responding to it.

(6) In this section—

"relevant election" means an election at which persons aged 16 and 17 are entitled to vote by virtue of section 1;

"voting system" means the system by which votes cast at an election are counted and used to determine which candidate or candidates are elected."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks a review into the effects of this Act on the voting system, voter participation and voter awareness.

After Clause 54

BARONESS FINN
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Statutory guidance on the Ballot Secrecy Act 2023

(1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Electoral Commission must prepare draft guidance for returning officers on enforcing the provisions of the Ballot Secrecy Act 2023.

(2) Once the Commission has prepared draft guidance under this section, it must submit it to the Secretary of State.

(3) Within 28 days of receipt the draft ballot secrecy guidance, the Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament a copy of the draft guidance, either—

(a) in its original form, or

(b) in a form which incorporates any modifications that the Secretary of State considers necessary.

(4) If the draft guidance incorporates any such modifications, the Secretary of State must at the same time lay before each House a statement of the Secretary of State's reasons for making them.

(5) If, within the 40-day period, either House resolves not to approve the draft guidance, the Secretary of State must take no further steps in relation to the draft guidance.

(6) Subsection (5) does not prevent new draft guidance from being laid before Parliament.

(7) If no resolution of the kind mentioned in subsection (5) is made within the 40-day period—

(a) the Secretary of State must issue the guidance in the form of the draft laid before Parliament,

(b) the Commission must arrange for the guidance to be published in such manner as it considers appropriate, and

(c) the guidance comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by regulations appoint.

(8) The Commission—

(a) may from time to time prepare draft revised guidance under this section, and

(b) must prepare draft revised guidance under this section if directed to do so by the Secretary of State.

(9) References in this section (other than in subsection (1)) to guidance or draft guidance include revised guidance or draft revised guidance.

(10) In this section "the 40-day period", in relation to draft guidance, means—

(a) if the draft is laid before one House on a day later than the day on which it is laid before the other House, the period of 40 days beginning with the later of the two days, and

(b) in any other case, the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which the draft is laid before each House,

no account being taken of any period during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.

(11) Returning officers must have regard to guidance issued under this section in exercising their functions."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Electoral Commission to prepare, and Parliament to approve, statutory guidance to returning officers on the enforcement of the Ballot Secrecy Act 2023.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Overseas electors: reform to voting process

(1) The Secretary of State, must, by regulations made by statutory instrument, make provision to enable overseas voters to vote in person at a United Kingdom embassy, high commission or consulate at United Kingdom parliamentary elections.

(2) For the purpose of this section, an "overseas elector" is a person who fulfils the requirements for an overseas elector in section 1 (extension of parliamentary franchise) of the RPA 1985.

(3) Regulations made under subsection (1) may amend provision made by or under any other Act as necessary.

(4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Secretary of State make provision by regulations so that overseas electors can vote in person at United Kingdom embassies, consulates and high commissions for United Kingdom parliamentary elections.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Independent review of registration and participation by overseas electors in UK parliamentary elections

(1) The Secretary of State must commission an independent review into how to increase the registration and participation by overseas electors in UK parliamentary elections.

(2) The matters which the review must consider include, but are not limited to—
  (a) the barriers to democratic participation by overseas electors;
  (b) the impact of the Elections Act 2022 on overseas voters;
  (c) the ability of overseas electors to register and to cast their vote successfully at the 2024 general election.

(3) The independent review must report within six months of the day on which this Act is passed and must be laid before Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Secretary of State to commission an independent review into increasing the registration and participation by overseas electors in UK parliamentary elections.

LORD RENNARD

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Overseas electors: review of feasibility of proposals for facilitating overseas ballots

(1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must publish and lay before both Houses of Parliament a report on proposals for facilitating overseas electors to vote in parliamentary elections.

(2) The report must consider the feasibility of proposals for—
  (a) the use of United Kingdom embassies, high commissions or consulates—
    (i) as if they were a polling station as set out in Schedule 1 to RPA 1983, and
    (ii) to receive postal votes,
  (b) the digital transmission and printing of ballot papers,
  (c) voting by telephone,
  (d) secure electronic voting,
  (e) changes to deadlines and practices as set out in Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 to enable earlier despatch of ballots for overseas voters,
  (f) informing overseas voters on early registration and voting options,
  (g) extended proxy voting arrangements for overseas voters, and
  (h) any other measures to improve the speed, accuracy and security of voting by overseas electors as the Secretary of State believes appropriate.

(3) In preparing the report, the Secretary of State must consult—
  (a) overseas electors,
  (b) electoral administrators,
  (c) His Majesty's Diplomatic Service, and
  (d) such other persons as the Secretary of State believes appropriate.

(4) For the purpose of this section, an "overseas elector" is a person who fulfils the requirements for an overseas elector in section 1 of RPA 1985 (extension of parliamentary franchise)."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Secretary of State to conduct a feasibility study on proposals to improve overseas voting, as recommended by the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee's second report of the 2024-6 session, "Review of the 2024 general election".

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
LORD FOULKES OF CUMNOCK
LORD KINNOCK

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

""None of the above" option on ballot papers

(1) The Secretary of State must by regulations made by statutory instrument ensure that the prescribed form of ballot paper for a parliamentary or local election includes, after the particulars of the last nominated candidate, an entry marked "none of the above" and a corresponding space for the voter's mark.

(2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to ensure that the new prescribed form of the ballot paper includes a "none of the above" option and requires that the final row of the ballot paper table provides a formal space for voters to register a vote against all nominated candidates.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

★ After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Sharing images of completed ballot papers to prove how a vote was cast

(1) A person commits an offence if the person—
  (a) takes a photograph or other image of a completed ballot paper (whether the person's own or another's), and
  (b) shows, sends, or otherwise discloses the image to another person,

for the purpose of proving, or enabling any person to prove, for which candidate or option that ballot paper was marked.

(2) A person commits an offence if the person requests, requires or induces another person to do anything that would be an offence under subsection (1).

(3) It is not an offence under subsection (1) to disclose an image—
  (a) to a constable, a returning officer, or the Electoral Commission for the purpose of reporting an offence or suspected offence,
  (b) for the purposes of legal proceedings, including an election petition, or
  (c) as part of a lawful investigation into an electoral offence.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or a fine, or both.

(5) An offence under this section is an illegal practice for the purposes of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

(6) Proceedings for an offence under this section must be brought within 12 months of the offence being committed and require the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

(7) This section applies to any election or referendum to which this Act and the Representation of the People Act 1983 applies, including ballot papers cast by post or by proxy.

(8) The Electoral Commission must include guidance on this section in its polling station and postal voting guidance."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Clause makes it an offence to share an image of a completed ballot paper to prove how a vote was cast, to protect ballot secrecy and prevent vote-buying and coercion.

After Clause 61

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause—

"Disclosure of past donations in cryptoassets

After section 66 (declaration by treasurer in donation report) of PPERA 2000 insert—

"66A Report on past donations involving cryptoassets

(1) The treasurer of a registered party must, within the period of six months beginning with the day on which this section comes into force, prepare a report under this section.

(2) The report must record the relevant details in relation to each donation received by the party during the relevant five-year period which was—
(a) made wholly or in part with cryptoassets, or
(b) accepted by means of a custodian wallet provider or cryptoasset exchange provider.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the "relevant five-year period" means the period of five years ending with the day on which this section comes into force.

(4) In this section, "the relevant details" in relation to a donation means—
(a) the name and address of the donor,
(b) the amount or value of the donation,
(c) the date on which the donation was received, and
(d) the date on which, and the way in which, any necessary steps were taken regarding the donation under section 56 (acceptance or return of donations: general).

(5) The report must be delivered to the Commission within the period of 14 days beginning with the end of the period mentioned in subsection (1).

(6) In this section—

"cryptoassets" has the meaning given by regulation 14A(3)(a) of the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/692);

"cryptoasset exchange provider" has the meaning given by section 131ZC(3) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002;

"custodian wallet provider" has the meaning given by section 131ZC(3) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.".".

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause amends PPERA 2000 to require registered political parties to compile and submit a one-off report to the Electoral Commission detailing the source, value, and dates of any donations made via cryptoassets, or accepted via crypto wallets or exchanges, over the past five years.

Clause 62

BARONESS HAYTER OF KENTISH TOWN

Clause 62, page 72, line 26, leave out "£100,000" and insert "£10,000"

LORD CARTER OF HASLEMERE

Leave out Clause 62 and insert the following new Clause—

"Annual donation cap

In PPERA 2000, after section 55 (payments etc. which are (or are not) to be treated as donations by permissible donors), insert—

"55A Refusal of donations which exceed the annual donation cap

(1) The Secretary of State may make an order specifying the amount of the annual donation cap, having due regard to a recommendation from the Electoral Commission made under subsection (3), and after consultation with the Speaker's Committee.

(2) The "annual donation cap" is the limit on the amount of money which can be donated to a registered political party by one individual or entity in the period of 12 months ending on 31 March in any year.

(3) The Electoral Commission must annually publish an annual donation cap recommendation.

(4) A registered political party must refuse a donation from an individual or entity if it exceeds the annual donation cap.

(5) The power of the Secretary of State to make an order under subsection (1) shall be exercised by statutory instrument and an order may not be made

unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment replaces the donation cap on overseas electors imposed by clause 62 with an enabling power to set an annual donation cap applying to all permissible donors, and requires the Electoral Commission to make an annual recommendation on the amount of the annual donation cap.

After Clause 62

LORD CROMWELL

After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause—

"Caps on donations

(1) PPERA 2000 is amended as follows.

(2) After section 56 (acceptance or return of donations: general) insert—

"56A Cap on donations from an individual

(1) A registered party, recognised third party, regulated donee or permitted participant must not accept a donation or gift from an individual registered in an electoral register if the total value of donations and gifts from that person exceeds £100,000 in a five-year period.

(2) Where a donation is received which would cause the limit for the purposes of subsection (1) to be exceeded, the amount by which the limit is exceeded is to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a donation received from a person who is not a permissible donor.

56B Cap on donations from a company

(1) A registered party, recognised third party, regulated donee or permitted participant must not accept a donation or gift from a UK company, partnership or corporate if the value of total donations and gifts from that company exceeds £500,000 in a five-year period.

(2) Where a donation is received which would cause the limit for the purposes of subsection (1) to be exceeded, the amount by which the limit is exceeded is to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a donation received from a person who is not a permissible donor.

(3) The donation cap in subsection (1) is subject to deductions equal to the value of donations from an individual under section 56A who is a person of significant control of that company.

56C Cap on donations from a trade union

(1) A registered party, recognised third party, regulated donee or permitted participant must not accept a donation or gift from a trade union if the total value of donations and gifts from that trade union exceeds £1,000,000 in a five-year period.

(2) Where a donation is received which would cause the limit for the purposes of subsection (1) to be exceeded, the amount by which the limit is exceeded is to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a donation received from a person who is not a permissible donor.

56D Cap on total donations

(1) A registered party must not accept donations or gifts from donors if the total value of donations and gifts from all donors during the course of that calendar year exceeds £7,000,000.

(2) Where a donation is received which would cause the limit for the purposes of subsection (1) to be exceeded, the amount by which the limit is exceeded is to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a donation received from a person who is not a permissible donor.

56E Offences concerned with accepting donations in excess of the caps

(1) A person that accepts a donation that exceeds one or more of the donation caps under sections 56A, 56B, 56C or 56D commits an offence subject to the same sanction as an offence under section 61(1).

(2) A person that knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that accepting a donation would exceed one or more of the donations caps under sections 56A, 56B, 56C or 56D, commits an offence subject to the same sanction as an offence under section 61(1).

(3) No offence is committed if a person receives a donation which that person is prohibited from accepting under sections 56A, 56B, 56C or 56D, but the "relevant amount" is either—

(a) returned to the person who made the donation or any person acting on the donor's behalf, or

(b) in instances where it is not possible or practical to return the donation under paragraph (a), donated to HM Treasury,

within the period of 30 days beginning with the date when the donation is received.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3) the "relevant amount" is either—

(a) for a donation that has been received after the caps under sections 56A, 56B, 56C or 56D have been reached, the total amount of the donation, or

(b) for a donation that has been received that results in the caps under sections 56A, 56B, 56C or 56D being reached, the portion of the donation which exceeds the cap.

56F Review of donation caps

(1) Within five years of the day on which the Representation of the People Act 2026 is passed, and every five-year period thereafter, the Secretary of State must commission a review by the Electoral Commission of donation cap limits.

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations vary the donation cap limit for the purposes of sections 56A, 56B, 56C and 56D after each review on recommendation by the Electoral Commission."

(3) In section 156 (orders and regulations), after subsection (4)(b) insert—

"(ba) section 56F(2),""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would introduce caps on donations from certain types of permitted donors to political parties, candidates, third party campaigners or regulated donees, with related offences for non-compliance and a review of the caps every five years.

LORD CARLILE OF BERRIEW

After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause—

"Donations to registered political parties: annual limits

(1) A registered political party shall not accept donations from any permissible donor which, whether individually or in aggregate, exceed £5 million in any calendar year.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), all donations made by the same permissible donor during a calendar year shall be treated as a single aggregate donation.

(3) A registered political party shall not accept donations from a group of connected donors where the aggregate value of donations made by that group exceeds £5 million in any calendar year.

(4) For the purposes of this section, a "connected donor" includes—
(a) a spouse or civil partner;
(b) a parent, child, sibling, grandparent or grandchild;
(c) a company controlled by the donor, whether alone or jointly with connected persons;
(d) a partnership, trust or unincorporated association in which the donor or connected persons exercise substantial control;
(e) any person acting pursuant to an arrangement, understanding or common plan with the donor for the purpose of making political donations.

(5) Donations made by connected donors shall be aggregated and treated as having been made by a single donor.

(6) A donation accepted in contravention of this section shall be forfeited to the Electoral Commission and paid into the Consolidated Fund.

(7) A person who knowingly participates in arrangements designed to circumvent the limits imposed by this section commits an offence and is liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to a fine;

(b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or a fine, or both.

(8) The Electoral Commission may issue guidance as to the determination of connected donors and arrangements intended to evade the limits established by this section.

(9) The Electoral Commission from time to time may determine that the cap on donations consequent on this section be increased as is proportionate and reasonable.

(10) In this section, "donation" includes any gift, sponsorship, subscription, affiliation payment, loan on non-commercial terms, provision of property, services or facilities at undervalue, or any other benefit regarded as a donation under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000."

Member's explanatory statement

The purpose of the amendment is to create a £5 million annual cap for any individual UK-resident permissible donor; a £5 million aggregate cap for connected persons acting together; anti-avoidance rules covering family members, companies, trusts and nominees; forfeiture of criminal donations; and criminal sanctions for deliberate circumvention. The Electoral Commission would have the power to allow reasonable and proportionate increase in the cap from time to time.

Clause 63

BARONESS FINN

Clause 63, page 86, line 28, at end insert—

"(da) whether the person from whom the donation is received is required to register under the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme established by the National Security Act 2023,"

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the risk assessment to take into account whether a donor is required to register under the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

Clause 63, page 86, line 28, at end insert—

"(da) whether the donor, or a person connected with the donor, has at any time been convicted of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty, bribery, corruption or money laundering (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere),

(db) the extent to which the donation, or the funds used to make it, derive from or have passed through a person connected with the donor who has been convicted as mentioned in paragraph (da), and"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires parties to consider, as part of the risk assessment, whether a donor or a person connected with them has a conviction for fraud, dishonesty, bribery, corruption or money laundering, and whether the donation is derived from such a person.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

Clause 63, page 86, line 29, at end insert—

"(2A) For the purposes of subsection (2)(da) and (db), a person is "connected with" the donor if—

(a) they are the donor's spouse, civil partner, parent, child or sibling,

(b) they are a person with significant control over the donor (within the meaning of section 54E or 54F), or

(c) they have, directly or indirectly, provided or arranged any part of the funds used to make the donation.

(2B) A conviction is to be disregarded for the purposes of subsection (2)(da) if it is spent for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, unless the sentence imposed exceeded four years."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on Lord Pack's amendment to clause 63, page 86, line 28 and defines a person "connected with" a donor.

Clause 65

BARONESS FINN

Clause 65, page 90, line 29, leave out paragraph (c)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to remove the profit test on political donations from companies.

BARONESS FINN

Clause 65, page 95, line 7, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would remove the profit test on political donations from companies.

After Clause 71

BARONESS HAYTER OF KENTISH TOWN

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Impermissible donations where donor's income is not subject to UK tax liability

In section 54 of PPERA 2000 (permissible donors), in subsection (1), after paragraph (ab), inserted by section 62(2)(a)(ii) of this Act, insert—

"(ac) the person by whom the donation is to be made is using the foreign income and gains regime to claim tax relief on—

(i) income and gains arising from outside the UK, or

(ii) UK income or gains deemed to be foreign under the qualifying asset holding company rules; or"."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would mean that donations could not be accepted by parties if a donor was using the foreign income and gains regime to claim tax relief on foreign income.

BARONESS FINN

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Permissible donors: foreign citizens

In section 54 of PPERA 2000 (permissible donors), after subsection (2) insert—

"(2AA) For the purposes of this section, subject to the exemptions in section (2AB), an "individual registered in an electoral register" does not include a person who is on a register by virtue of being a "qualifying foreign citizen" for the purposes of—

(a) section 2 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, or

(b) section 1 of the Scottish Elections (Franchise and Representation) Act 2020.

(2AB) The exemptions in this subsection are that the person is on an electoral register because they are—

(c) a qualified Commonwealth citizen,

(d) a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or

(e) a citizen of the European Union who would be eligible to vote in local elections under the English and Northern Ireland franchise.""

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause prevents people who are on electoral registers because they fulfil certain conditions in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Scottish Elections (Franchise and Representation) Act 2020, but are not qualifying Commonwealth, Irish or EU citizens, from being permissible donors.

BARONESS FINN

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Mitigating the risk of foreign interference in political donations

Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must publish a consultation paper on how the Government will enhance information-sharing between relevant agencies and public bodies and registered political parties to help to identify and mitigate the risk of foreign interference in political donations that are regulated by electoral law."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Secretary of State to consult on how to enhance information sharing between relevant public bodies or agencies and political parties to minimise the risk of foreign interference in political donations.

BARONESS FINN

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Sponsorship

(1) The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 is amended as follows.

(2) In section 51 (sponsorship) after subsection (3)(b) insert—

"(c) the making of any payment in respect of advertisements or marketing at a conference organised by or on behalf of a registered party where the payment is made at the commercial rate payable for such advertisements or marketing."

(3) In section 52 (payments, services etc. not to be regarded as donations), for subsection (3) substitute—

"(3) Nothing in section 50 or 51 shall have the result that a payment made in respect of the—

(a) hire of a stand;

(b) hire or sponsorship of a lounge, dedicated space, room, marquee, roundtable event, meal or reception,

at or associated with a party conference organised by or on behalf of a registered party is to constitute a donation to the party for the purposes of this Part if or to the extent that the payment does not exceed such of the maximum commercial rates which the Commission determine to be reasonable for such types of activity at a conference.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause amends the definition of sponsorship for the purposes of PPERA 2000 so that it does not include advertising, marketing, hire of a stand or a space associated with a party conference, where payment is made at commercial rates.

BARONESS FINN

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Tax exemption for political party fundraising and democratic engagement

(1) Profits arising from fundraising activities undertaken at, or in connection with, an event organised by or on behalf of a registered political party or one of its accounting units are exempt from income tax and corporation tax, as applicable, where the event's principal purpose is political fundraising, political campaigning or democratic engagement.

(2) This in particular includes receipts from—

(a) admission charges and the sale of tickets, seats or tables,

(b) raffles, lotteries and prize draws,

(c) auctions, including the amount by which a successful bid exceeds the ordinary market value of the auctioned item, which is treated as a donation under electoral law where the applicable statutory conditions and threshold are met, and

(d) other fundraising activities forming part of, or directly connected with, the event.

(3) The exemption applies whether payment is made by an individual, company or other permissible source, and whether participants are members or non-members of the organising registered political party.

(4) The exemption also includes—

(a) receipts from business clubs operated principally for political fundraising or democratic engagement, provided members receive no material commercial benefit beyond attendance at events and the hospitality ordinarily provided, and

(b) voluntary contributions towards the cost of holding an event, including payments described or reportable as "sponsorship" under electoral law, where the payer receives no advertising, branding, promotional rights or other material commercial benefit in return.

(5) The exemption does not include commercial sponsorship or other arrangements under which payment is made in return for advertising, prominent display of a name or brand, promotional rights or other identifiable commercial services.

(6) The exemption applies even where the payment is classified as sponsorship or a donation for electoral law purposes."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would exempt fundraising from political party events being subject to income tax or corporation tax, as applicable, where a party event's principal purpose is political fundraising, campaigning or democratic engagement.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Proposals for a Royal Commission on political donations and campaign expenditure

(1) Within three months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must publish proposals for the establishment of a Royal Commission to consider—

(a) the merits of a cap on political donations and the level at which such a cap should be set, and

(b) the effectiveness of existing limits on campaign expenditure, including the appropriateness of the time period during which those limits apply.

(2) Proposals published under this section must include proposals for the Royal Commission's—

(a) terms of reference,

(b) membership, and

(c) funding."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause requires the Secretary of State to publish proposals for a Royal Commission to consider a cap on political donations and the effectiveness of existing campaign expenditure limits.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Permissible donors not to include individuals serving a foreign administration

(1) Section 54 of PPERA 2000 (permissible donors) is amended as follows.

(2) After subsection (2) insert—

"(2A) An individual who would otherwise fall within subsection (2)(a) is not a permissible donor if that individual is, or has been—

(a) a member of, or

(b) a politically-appointed adviser to,

a foreign administration."

(3) After subsection (8) insert—

"(9) In subsection (2A)—

"foreign administration" means the government or state apparatus of any country or territory outside of the United Kingdom;

"member" includes elected and appointed members.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would ban those who are or have been members of a foreign administration, or advisers to a foreign administration, from donating money to a political party, think tank or campaigning body.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Declaration of income or gifts from foreign governments

(1) Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 (parliamentary elections rules) is amended as follows.

(2) After rule 8 (consent to nomination) insert—

"Declaration of income or gifts from foreign governments

8A (1) A person is not validly nominated unless the person makes a declaration stating whether they have received in the past or are currently in receipt of any income or gifts from—

(a) the government of any foreign nation, or

(b) any person or organisation connected to the government of any foreign nation.

(2) The declaration must be—

(a) in the prescribed form,

(b) signed by the person, and

(c) delivered at the place and within the time for the delivery of nomination papers.

(3) For the purposes of this rule, a person or organisation connected to the government of any foreign nation means anyone who has at any time been—

(a) a member of, or

(b) a politically-appointed adviser to,

a foreign administration."

(3) In rule 6A (nomination papers: name of registered political party), at the end insert—

"(5) A registered political party is under a duty to ensure that a candidate has made the declaration required by rule 8A, and a certificate under paragraph (1) or (1B) may not be issued by or on behalf of the registered nominating officer of the party in respect of a candidate unless this duty has been discharged.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require candidates to declare any income or gifts from foreign nations or connected entities in order to be validly nominated. It also places a duty on political parties to

ensure their candidates have made this declaration before authorising them to stand on behalf of the party.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Declaration of income or gifts from the Russian Federation

(1) Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 (parliamentary elections rules) is amended as follows.

(2) After rule 8 (consent to nomination) insert—

"Declaration of income or gifts from the Russian Federation

8A (1) A person is not validly nominated unless the person makes a declaration stating whether they have received in the past or are currently in receipt of any income or gifts from—

(a) the government of the Russian Federation, or

(b) any person or organisation connected to the government of the Russian Federation.

(2) The declaration must be—

(a) in the prescribed form,

(b) signed by the person, and

(c) delivered at the place and within the time for the delivery of nomination papers.

(3) For the purposes of this rule, a person or organisation connected to the government of the Russian Federation means anyone who has at any time been—

(a) a member of, or

(b) a politically-appointed adviser to,

the government of the Russian Federation."

(3) In rule 6A (nomination papers: name of registered political party), at the end insert—

"(5) A registered political party is under a duty to ensure that a candidate has made the declaration required by rule 8A, and a certificate under paragraph (1) or (1B) may not be issued by or on behalf of the registered nominating officer of the party in respect of a candidate unless this duty has been discharged.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require candidates to declare past or current income or gifts from the government of the Russian Federation or from any person or organisation connected to that government. It also places a duty on political parties to ensure that their candidates have made this declaration.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Annual statements on foreign donation risks and independent investigations

After section 66 (declaration by treasurer in donation report) of PPERA 2000 insert—

"66A Annual statement on mitigation of foreign donation risks

(1) The treasurer of a registered party must, in respect of each calendar year, prepare a statement setting out the steps taken by the party to mitigate risks relating to donations originating from a foreign nation.

(2) The statement must be delivered to the Commission alongside the party's statement of accounts for that year.

66B Annual independent investigation of donations by foreign-owned UK entities

(1) A registered party must, in respect of each calendar year, arrange for an independent investigation to be conducted into any donations received by the party from a foreign-owned UK entity.

(2) A report of the independent investigation must be submitted to the Commission by the treasurer of the party within six months of the end of the calendar year to which it relates.

(3) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make provision about—

(a) the appointment and qualifications of an independent investigator for the purposes of this section,

(b) the definition of a "foreign-owned UK entity", and

(c) the required contents of the investigation report.

(4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (3) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.""

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause requires registered political parties to produce an annual statement detailing how they have mitigated risks relating to donations from foreign nations. It also requires parties to commission an annual independent investigation into donations they receive from foreign-owned UK entities, with the findings submitted to the Electoral Commission.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Permissible donors not to include persons who have promoted political violence

In section 54 of PPERA 2000 (permissible donors), after subsection (3ZB) (inserted by section 65(2)(d)) insert—

"(3ZC) A person is not to be treated as a permissible donor in relation to a donation if the person has been convicted of a prescribed offence relating to the promotion, incitement or use of political violence.

(3ZD) The Secretary of State must by regulations prescribe the offences which fall within subsection (3ZC).""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause seeks to prevent anyone who has promoted political violence from donating to a political party.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Prohibition of controlled expenditure and expenses by non-permissible donors

(1) PPERA 2000 is amended as set out in subsections (2) to (4).

(2) In section 89A (restriction on which third parties may incur controlled expenditure) omit subsection (2).

(3) In section 89B (restriction on which third parties may incur controlled expenditure: Senedd Cymru elections) omit subsection (2).

(4) In section 89B (restriction on which third parties may incur controlled expenditure: Scottish Parliament elections) omit subsection (2).

(5) In section 75 of RPA 1983 (prohibition of expenses not authorised by election agent) omit—
  (a) subsection 1ZZB(a), and
  (b) subsection 1ZA.

(6) In section 41 of the Elections Act 2022 (requirement to include information with electronic material) after subsection (3)(b) insert—

"(c) a statement declaring the original source of the funding used to pay for the promotion or publication of the material.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause prevents controlled expenditure and expenses by non-permissible donors, including foreign-funded advertising, by reducing the existing £700 spending limit for such donors to nil. It also requires that campaign material includes a statement declaring the origin of its funding.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Prohibition of political advertising by non-permissible donors

(1) A person or organisation that is not a permissible donor must not incur any expenditure on political advertising, whether or not related to a relevant election.

(2) For the purposes of this section—
  (a) "political advertising" means any materials or activities with a view to promoting a political party, candidate or campaign;
  (b) "relevant election" has the same meaning as in Part II of PPERA 2000.

(3) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, by regulations made by statutory instrument amend, repeal or revoke any enactment, including this Act and other electoral legislation, where the Secretary of State considers it necessary for the purposes of subsection (1).

(4) Before making regulations under this section, the Secretary of State must consult—
  (a) the Electoral Commission, and
  (b) such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(5) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would prevent non-permissible donors from funding political advertising, whether or not related to a relevant election, and provide the Secretary of State with regulation making powers to enable this prohibition to be enforced.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Payments from foreign state broadcasters to politicians and candidates

(1) After paragraph 6 of Schedule 7 to PPERA 2000 (control of donations to individuals and members associations) insert—

"Prohibition on payments from foreign state broadcasters

6A (1) A regulated donee must not accept any payment, remuneration or other financial benefit, whether or not on commercial terms, from a prescribed foreign state broadcaster.

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations prescribe a foreign state broadcaster for the purposes of this paragraph where the Secretary of State considers the broadcaster is acting on behalf of, or producing propaganda for, a foreign power.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph, a payment or benefit includes, but is not limited to, remuneration for appearing on, hosting, or contributing to broadcasts or programmes."

(2) After rule 8 (consent to nomination) of Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 (parliamentary elections rules) insert—

"Declaration of past earnings from foreign state broadcasters

8A (1) A person is not validly nominated unless the person makes a declaration stating whether they have received any past or current earnings, payments or benefits from a foreign state broadcaster prescribed under paragraph 6A of Schedule 7 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

(2) The declaration must be—

(a) in the prescribed form,

(b) signed by the person, and

(c) delivered at the place and within the time for the delivery of nomination papers.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new Clause prohibits politicians (regulated donors) from receiving any payment from prescribed foreign state broadcasters. It also amends the parliamentary election rules to require candidates (including incumbent MPs) to formally declare any past earnings from these entities in order to be validly nominated to stand for election.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Prohibition on remuneration for social media activity

(1) After paragraph 6 of Schedule 7 to PPERA 2000 (control of donations to individuals and members associations) insert—

"Prohibition on payments for social media activity

6C (1) A regulated donee must not accept any payment, remuneration or other financial benefit, whether or not on commercial terms, from any person or organisation in connection with activity on a social media platform.

(2) For the purposes of this section—

(a) a payment or benefit includes, but is not limited to, remuneration for publishing, promoting or interacting with content on a social media platform,

(b) a social media platform means an electronic medium or service through which users may create, share, or view user-generated content, including, without limitation, videos, photographs, blogs, podcasts, messages, emails, or website profiles or locations."

(2) After paragraph 6 of Schedule 2A to RPA 1983 (control of donations to candidates) insert—

"Prohibition on payments for social media activity

6A (1) A candidate or their election agent must not accept any payment, remuneration or other financial benefit, whether or not on commercial terms, from any person or organisation in connection with activity on a social media platform.

(2) For the purposes of this section—

(a) a payment or benefit includes, but is not limited to, remuneration for publishing, promoting or interacting with content on a social media platform,

(b) a social media platform means an electronic medium or service through which users may create, share, or view user-generated content, including, without limitation, videos, photographs, blogs, podcasts, messages, emails, or website profiles or locations.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new Clause prohibits members of registered parties, members associations, holders of relevant elective offices and electoral candidates from receiving any payment, remuneration, or financial benefit in exchange for posting, promoting, or interacting with content on social media.

LORD BLUNKETT

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Donations to registered parties from those convicted of financial crime

In section 54 of PPERA 2000 (permissible donors), after subsection (2)(h) insert—

"(i) an individual who has not been convicted of a financial crime resulting in—

(i) a penalty of a fine or imprisonment, or

(ii) a suspension of any penalty within the last ten years,

in the United Kingdom or anywhere outside of the United Kingdom.""

LORD CROMWELL

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Caps on regulated transactions

(1A) PPERA 2000 is amended as follows.

(1B) After section 71F (regulated transactions) insert—

"71FA Cap on regulated transactions with an individual

(1) A registered party, recognised third party, regulated donee or permitted participant must not enter into a regulated transaction with an individual registered in an electoral register if the total value of regulated transactions with that person exceeds £100,000 in a five-year period.

(2) Where entering into a regulated transaction would cause the limit for the purposes of subsection (1) to be exceeded, the amount by which the limit is exceeded is to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a regulated transaction entered into with a person who is not an authorised participant.

71FB Cap on regulated transactions with a company

(1) A registered party, recognised third party, regulated donee or permitted participant must not enter into a regulated transaction with a UK company, partnership or corporate if the total value of regulated transactions with that company exceeds £500,000 in a five-year period.

(2) Where entering into a regulated transaction would cause the limit for the purposes of subsection (1) to be exceeded, the amount by which the limit is exceeded is to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a regulated transaction entered into with a person who is not an authorised participant.

(3) The cap in subsection (1) is subject to deductions equal to the value of regulated transactions entered into with an individual under section 71FA who is a person of significant control of that company.

71FC Cap on regulated transactions with a trade union

(1) A registered party, recognised third party, regulated donee or permitted participant must not enter into a regulated transaction with a trade union if the total value of regulated transactions with that trade union exceeds £1,000,000 in a five-year period.

(2) Where entering into a regulated transaction would cause the limit for the purposes of subsection (1) to be exceeded, the amount by which the limit is exceeded is to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a regulated transaction entered into with a person who is not an authorised participant.

71FD Cap on total annual value of regulated transactions

(1) A registered party, recognised third party, regulated donee or permitted participant must not enter into a regulated transaction with a person if the total value of regulated transactions entered into with all persons during the course of that calendar year exceeds £7,000,000.

(2) Where entering into a regulated transaction would cause the limit for the purposes of subsection (1) to be exceeded, the amount by which the limit is exceeded is to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a regulated transaction entered into with a person who is not an authorised participant.

71FE Offences concerned with entering into regulated transactions in excess of the caps

(1) A registered political party who enters into a regulated transaction with a person that exceeds one or more of the limits under sections 71FA, 71FB, 71FC and 71FD commits an offence subject to the same sanction as an offence under section 71L(1) (registered party entering into regulated transaction with unauthorised participant).

(2) A treasurer of a registered political party who enters into a regulated transaction with a person that exceeds one or more of the limits under sections 71FA, 71FB, 71FC and 71FD commits an offence subject to the same sanction as an offence under section 71L(2) (treasurer of party entering into regulated transaction with unauthorised participant).

71FF Review of regulated transaction caps

(1) Within five years of the day on which the Representation of the People Act 2026 is passed, and every five-year period thereafter, the Secretary of State must commission a review by the Electoral Commission of regulated transaction caps.

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations vary the cap limit for the purposes of sections 71FA, 71FB, 71FC and 71FD after each review on recommendation by the Electoral Commission."

(2) In section 71I (regulated transaction involving unauthorised participant), after subsection (3) insert—

"(3A) Money repaid under subsection (3) must be repaid within three months of an order made by the Secretary of State."

(3) In section 156 (orders and regulations), after subsection (4)(da) insert—

"(daa) section 71FF(2),""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would introduce caps on regulated transactions entered into by political parties, candidates, third party campaigners or regulated donees, with related offences for non-compliance and a review of the caps every five years.

LORD CROMWELL

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Annual funding records and statement

After section 66 of PPERA 2000 (declaration by treasurer in donation report) insert—

"66A Records of funds

(1) A registered party must publish records that contain details of each donation received and regulated transaction entered into by the registered party.

(2) The records under subsection (1) must include—

(a) the amount or value of the donation or regulated transaction,

(b) the date on which the donation was received or the regulated transaction was entered into,

(c) the person or entity making the donation or regulated transaction, and

(d) what the donation or regulated transaction was used for.

66B Annual statement of funding

(1) The treasurer of a registered party must, in respect of each calendar year, prepare a statement setting out the funding provided by the registered party to candidates and to bodies with whom they have links, including think tanks, polling bodies, campaigners and others.

(2) The statement must be delivered to the Electoral Commission alongside the party's statement of accounts for that year.""

LORD CROMWELL

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Annual independent audit of donations

After section 66 of PPERA 2000 (declaration by treasurer in donation report) insert—

"66A Annual independent audit of donations and regulated transactions

(1) The treasurer of a registered party must, in respect of each calendar year, arrange for an independent external audit to be conducted of all donations received and regulated transactions entered into by the party.

(2) The audit must in particular—
  (a) assess the total value of donations received by the registered party,
  (b) assess the total value of regulated transactions entered into by the party,
  (c) assess compliance with caps for each permitted donor and authorised participant, and
  (d) assess compliance with the total caps for donations and regulated transactions.

(3) A report by the independent external audit must be published by the registered party within three months of the completion of the audit.

(4) A treasurer of a registered party that fails to arrange an independent external audit commits an offence.

(5) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction—
  (a) in England and Wales, to a fine;
  (b) in Scotland or Northern Ireland, to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.""

LORD CARTER OF HASLEMERE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Requirement for Electoral Commission recommendation to vary specified sums or percentages

(1) Section 155 of PPERA 2000 (power to vary specified sums or percentages) is amended as follows.

(2) After subsection (1A) insert—

"(1B) The Secretary of State may make an order under subsection (1) in relation to sums relating to campaign expenditure pursuant to section 79 and Schedule 9 only if the order gives effect to a recommendation made by the Electoral Commission.

(1C) The Electoral Commission must make a recommendation for the purposes of subsection (1B) at least once every five years, and the Secretary of State must give due weight to every such recommendation in deciding whether or not to make an order under subsection (1B).

(1D) In making a recommendation under subsection (1C), the Electoral Commission must have regard to—

(a) the fairness of elections,

(b) the effect on political parties, and

(c) public confidence in the integrity of elections.

(1E) If the Secretary of State does not make an order under subsection (1) following a recommendation from the Electoral Commission under subsection (1B) they must make a statement to Parliament giving reasons for rejecting the recommendation."

(3) Omit subsections (2) to (4)."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require changes to sums relating to campaign expenditure (as specified in PPERA 2000) to be based on a recommendation by the Electoral Commission, which would be required to review those amounts at least once every five years.

After Clause 73

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Language of campaign materials

(1) During the relevant period campaign material must not be promoted or published in a foreign language.

(2) A person is guilty of an offence if the person causes campaign material to be promoted or published that falls within subsection (1).

(3) For the purposes of this section—

"campaign material" means imprinted election campaign material published by political parties and candidates, whether in hard copy or digital format;

"foreign language" means a native language of any foreign country outside the British Islands, other than English;

"relevant period" means the period specified in section 90ZA of the RPA 1983.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—

(a) on summary conviction in England and Wales, to a fine;

(b) on summary conviction in Scotland or Northern Ireland to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(5) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (2) to prove—

(a) that the person took all reasonable steps, and exercised all due diligence, to ensure that the campaign material was not promoted or published contrary to subsection (1), and

(b) that the contravention arose from circumstances beyond the person's control."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would ban election materials published in a foreign language by political parties and candidates during the short campaign. It would not ban campaigning in native languages of the British Islands such as in English, Welsh, Cornish, Ulster Scots, Irish, et al. Nor would it prevent campaigning via the likes of BSL or Braille.

LORD CLEMENT-JONES
THE LORD BISHOP OF LEICESTER

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Information to be included with electronic material: generative artificial intelligence

In section 41 of the Elections Act 2022 (requirement to include information with electronic material), after subsection (2)(b) insert—

"(c) where the electronic material consists of or includes image, audio or video content that has been generated or materially altered by means of generative artificial intelligence, a statement that such artificial intelligence has been used is included.

(2A) In this section, "generative artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined prompts or objectives, generate new image, audio or video content.""

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause amends the digital imprint rules in the Elections Act 2022 to require that any political campaigning material which contains images, audio or video generated or materially altered by AI must include a statement that such artificial intelligence has been used.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LEICESTER
BARONESS MORGAN OF COTES
BARONESS BERRIDGE
BARONESS BAKEWELL OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Election material: prohibition on use of pictures of religious buildings

(1) This section applies to—

(a) a parliamentary election,

(b) an election to the Scottish Parliament,

(c) an election to Senedd Cymru,
(d) an election to the Northern Ireland Assembly,
(e) a local government election in England, Wales or Scotland, or
(f) a local election in Northern Ireland.

(2) No election material may be published in so far as it contains a picture which—
(a) is or includes a picture of the whole or part of a religious building, and
(b) suggests a close connection between a candidate to whom the material relates and the building or the religion with which the building is associated.

(3) Where material is published in contravention of this section, each of the following commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine—
(a) a candidate to whom the material relates,
(b) the election agent for such a candidate, and
(c) the person causing the material to be published (if that person does not come within paragraph (a) or (b)).

(4) "Election material" means material which can reasonably be regarded as intended to promote or procure the election of a candidate to whom the material relates.

(5) "Religious building"—
(a) includes the interior and the curtilage, but
(b) does not include a building used, or suitable for use, by a minister of religion wholly or mainly as a residence from which to perform duties of that office.

(6) "Local government election" means—
(a) a local government election within the meaning of section 191, 203 or 204 of RPA 1983, or
(b) an election under Part 1A or 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 for the return of an elected mayor.

(7) "Local election in Northern Ireland" means a local election within the meaning of the Electoral Law (Northern Ireland) Act 1962."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would prohibit the inclusion of pictures of religious buildings in election material at a parliamentary election, an election to a devolved legislature or a local election.

LORD CLEMENT-JONES

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Party affiliation in digital imprints

In section 41(3) of the Elections Act 2022 (information to be included with electronic material), after paragraph (b) insert—

"(c) where the promoter or any person on whose behalf the material is published is a candidate or future candidate, a statement—

(i) identifying any registered party in whose name that person is standing or is to stand, or by which that person is included or is to be included in a list of candidates submitted in connection with the election; or

(ii) stating that there is no such registered party.

(d) where the promoter or any person on whose behalf the material is published is an elected office-holder who is not also a candidate or future candidate, a statement—

(i) identifying any registered party of which that person is a member, or

(ii) stating that the person is not a member of a registered party.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would require electronic campaigning material promoted by or on behalf of a candidate or future candidate to identify the registered political party for which they are standing, or state that there is none, and would require equivalent information about the party membership of an elected office-holder.

Schedule 17

LORD PACK

Schedule 17, page 258, line 32, at end insert—

"Parliamentary Elections Act 1695

15 The Parliamentary Elections Act 1695 is repealed.

European Parliamentary Elections Act 1993

16 The European Parliamentary Elections Act 1993 is repealed."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment repeals legislation that is no longer in force.

After Clause 77

LORD PACK

After Clause 77, insert the following new Clause—

"Electoral Commission: pre-investigation decision notices

In Schedule 19B to PPERA 2000 (investigatory powers of Commission), in paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (5), at end insert ", or

(b) relevant to determining whether to start an investigation.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new Clause would enable the Electoral Commission to require information before launching a formal investigation.

Clause 78

BARONESS FINN

Baroness Finn gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 78 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This would stop the removal of the Electoral Commission's strategy and policy statement, which amongst other things, provides practical protections against electoral fraud and interference.

After Clause 79

BARONESS FINN

After Clause 79, insert the following new Clause—

"Electoral Commission: civil penalties and enforcement

In Schedule 19C of PPERA 2000 (civil sanctions), after paragraph 1(1) insert—

"(1A) When deciding whether to impose a fixed monetary penalty under this Act, the Commission must have regard to whether the penalty will—

(a) change the behaviour of the offender,

(b) eliminate any financial gain or benefit from non-compliance,

(c) be appropriate for the particular offender and regulatory issue,

(d) be proportionate to the nature of the offence and the harm caused,

(e) restore the harm caused by regulatory non-compliance, where appropriate, and

(f) deter future non-compliance.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would put the "Macrory principles" for regulators on to a statutory footing as regards the Electoral Commission.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
BARONESS THORNHILL

After Clause 79, insert the following new Clause—

"Electoral Commission: publication of information about diversity in range of candidates

After section 13A of PPERA 2000 (reimbursement of costs by Scottish Ministers etc) insert—

"13ZZA Collection and publication of information about diversity in range of candidates

(1) The Commission shall collect information published under section 106 of the Equality Act 2010.

(2) The Commission shall publish the information collected under subsection (1) in an accessible form at such intervals as the Commission considers appropriate.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would require the Electoral Commission to collect and publish in an accessible form diversity information to be provided by political parties under section 106 of the Equality Act 2010.

After Clause 80

BARONESS THORNHILL

After Clause 80, insert the following new Clause—

"Hostility towards relatives and staff of candidates etc.

After section 32 (candidates etc) of the Elections Act 2022 insert—

"32A Relatives and staff of candidates

(1) A person falls within this section if the person is—
(a) a relative, or
(b) a member of staff,
of a person described in section 32 (candidates etc.).

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a) "relative" has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b) "member of staff" means a person who is employed by or working under the direction of a person described in section 32 (candidates etc.).""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would, together with Baroness Thornhill's amendment to page 120, line 2, add relatives and staff of candidates to the persons against which hostility may lead to a disqualification order and for the purposes of a statutory aggravating factor.

Clause 81

BARONESS THORNHILL

Clause 81, page 120, line 2, after "candidates," insert "candidates' relatives, candidates' staff,"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would, together with Baroness Thornhill's amendment to insert the new clause "Hostility towards relatives and staff of candidates etc.", include family members and staff of candidates as people towards whom hostility would be treated as an aggravating factor.

After Clause 84

LORD GOODMAN OF WYCOMBE
BARONESS DEECH
LORD WALNEY

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Independent review of the 2024 general election

(1) The Secretary of State must, within three months of the day on which this Act is passed, commission an independent review of the conduct of the 2024 parliamentary general election.

(2) The review must consider—
  (a) reports of intimidation or undue influence of electors,
  (b) the collection, handling and return of postal votes,
  (c) practices at polling stations including so-called family voting,
  (d) the role of community organisations in campaigning, and
  (e) the adequacy of existing criminal offences and of police and returning officer responses.

(3) The Secretary of State must appoint a person who appears to the Secretary of State to be independent and to have relevant experience to conduct the review.

(4) The person appointed must report the recommendations of the independent review to the Secretary of State within nine months of appointment.

(5) The Secretary of State must lay the report before Parliament no later than three months after the person appointed has reported to the Secretary of State.

(6) The Secretary of State must, within three months of laying the report, publish a response setting out which recommendations the Government accepts."

BARONESS LEAMAN
BARONESS THORNHILL
LORD BLUNKETT
BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Access to Elected Office Fund (England)

After section 90D of RPA 1983 insert—

"90E Access to Elected Office Fund (England)

(1) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, require the Electoral Commission to establish and maintain a fund to be known as the Access to Elected Office Fund (England) ("the Fund").

(2) The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to disabled candidates standing for election in England, including providing assistance to meet any additional campaign costs incurred by the candidate as a result of their disability, and the Electoral Commission or a person designated under subsection (4)(a) must administer the Fund consistently with that purpose.

(3) The Secretary of State may from time to time make payments into the Fund of such amounts as they may determine.

(4) Regulations under this section may—
- (a) designate a different person, other than the Electoral Commission, to establish and maintain the Fund,
- (b) specify criteria for eligibility for financial assistance,
- (c) set out the types of expenditure for which financial assistance may be provided,
- (d) specify the value of financial assistance available to an individual candidate, and
- (e) establish rules and procedures that the Electoral Commission or a person designated under subsection (4)(a) must comply with when administering the Fund.

(5) Before making any regulations under subsection (1) the Secretary of State must consult—
- (a) disabled people,
- (b) political parties,
- (c) relevant charities and civil society organisations, and
- (d) the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "disability" has the meaning given under section 6 (disability) of the Equality Act 2010.

(7) Any regulations made under this section must not be made unless a draft has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the Secretary of State to establish a fund to provide financial assistance to disabled candidates.

BARONESS LEAMAN
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
BARONESS THORNHILL

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Commencement of section 106 of the Equality Act 2010

The Secretary of State must, within three months of the day on which this Act is passed, make an order under section 216 (commencement) of the Equality Act 2010 to commence section 106 (information about diversity in range of candidates, etc.) of that Act."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Secretary of State to commence section 106 of the Equality Act 2010 within three months, which would require political parties to publish information on the protected characteristics of candidates in parliamentary elections, elections to the Scottish Parliament and to the Senedd.

BARONESS HOEY

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Equality impact assessment prior to extending the franchise to younger voters in the UK

(1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must carry out an equality impact assessment of the proposed extension of the franchise in Northern Ireland compared with Great Britain.

(2) The Secretary of State must within nine months of the day on which this Act is passed lay before both Houses of Parliament—
  (a) the equality impact assessment required by subsection (1), and
  (b) a report setting out the Government's formal response to the equality impact assessment."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause is connected to the amendment to Clause 90 in the name of Baroness Hoey and facilitates a debate on the equality impact of the proposed General Election franchise change on young people in Northern Ireland compared with the rest of the UK.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON
LORD BRADY OF ALTRINCHAM

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Review: age of majority

The Secretary of State must lay a report before both Houses of Parliament that reviews the case for differing the age at which it becomes legal to vote in parliamentary general elections from—

(a) the age of majority in the Family Law Reform Act 1969, and

(b) any minimum ages specified in law which the Secretary of State considers appropriate to review."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and two others in the name of Baroness O'Neill, would prevent Part 1 of the Act coming into force until the Secretary of State has undertaken a review of the consistency of the age of majority.

BARONESS FINN

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Consultation with the Parliamentary Parties Panel

The Secretary of State must consult the Parliamentary Parties Panel established under section 4 of PPERA 2000 (parliamentary parties panel) before any provision of this Act, except this section and Part 7, comes into force."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and another in the name of Baroness Finn, seek to prevent the Act from coming into force until the Secretary of State has consulted the Parliamentary Parties Panel.

BARONESS MORGAN OF COTES
LORD CARLILE OF BERRIEW
LORD CLEMENT-JONES
BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Elections code

(1) Section 41 of the Online Safety Act 2023 (codes of practice about duties) is amended in accordance with subsections (2) and (3).

(2) After subsection (3) insert—

"(3A) OFCOM must prepare and issue a code of practice for providers of Part 3 services describing measures recommended for the purpose

of compliance with the relevant duties in relation to the risk of electoral harm during an election period."

(3) In subsection (10), at the end insert—

""electoral harm"—

(a) means—

(i) illegal content,

(ii) content harmful to children, and

(iii) in relation to Category 1 services, content listed in section 16,

directed at candidates, campaign staff, returning officers and associated staff, or their families, during an election period, and

(b) includes—

(i) threats of violence,

(ii) stalking,

(iii) online harassment,

(iv) hate speech,

(v) non-consensual intimate images including deepfakes,

(vi) doxxing,

(vii) offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983,

(viii) false communications within the meaning of section 179, and

(ix) content or behaviours relating to a foreign interference offence under the National Security Act 2023,

insofar as each affects a relevant election;

"relevant election" means any of the following—

(a) national, local, devolved administration and strategic mayoral elections,

(b) referendums, and

(c) by-elections for the UK Parliament, Senedd Cymru, Scottish Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly;

"election period" means the regulated period for the purposes of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in respect of the particular type of election.""

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment adds to the codes that Ofcom is required to produce to help service providers comply with their duties under the Online Safety Act 2023 and aims to deal with the specific risks relating to an election period.

BARONESS MORGAN OF COTES
LORD CARLILE OF BERRIEW
LORD CLEMENT-JONES
BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Election offences

In Schedule 7 to the Online Safety Act 2023 (priority offences) after paragraph 38 insert—

"Election offences

38A(1) An offence under section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (requirement of secrecy).

(2) An offence under section 66A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (exit polls).

(3) An offence under section 106(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (false statements of fact as to candidates).

(4) An offence under section 114A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (undue influence).""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to list election offences as priority offences for the purposes of the Online Safety Act, confirming that they are relevant offences for the purposes of that Act and imposing pre-emptive duties in relation to them.

BARONESS THORNHILL

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Duty of Electoral Commission to provide candidate safety guidance

(1) The Electoral Commission must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, prepare and publish guidance on the safety and security of candidates and campaigners during election periods.

(2) The guidance must include information about—
  (a) identifying, recording and reporting threats, abuse and intimidation,
  (b) physical and online security measures, and
  (c) the roles of the police, the Electoral Commission and any other relevant public authorities in relation to candidate safety during an election period.

(3) The Electoral Commission must keep the guidance under review and revise it whenever it considers appropriate.

(4) A returning officer must provide each validly nominated candidate with a copy of, or an electronic link to, the guidance as soon as reasonably practicable after the candidate's nomination is accepted.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "election periods" means the period specified in section 90ZA of RPA 1983 (meaning of "election expenses")."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause places a duty on the Electoral Commission to publish and maintain candidate safety guidance, and requires returning officers to provide it to candidates as soon as possible after their nomination has been accepted.

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE
LORD CLEMENT-JONES

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Report on interference in UK elections originating from the United States of America

(1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, publish a report on the extent of electoral interference originating from the United States of America (USA) and its impact on the integrity of elections in the United Kingdom.

(2) The report published under subsection (1) must review the extent of the following activities and their impact on voters—
  (a) USA-based social media companies amplifying electoral campaign material via algorithms, and
  (b) donations made to registered political parties, think-tanks, lobbying firms and other regulated donees in the United Kingdom originating from—
    (i) the USA government,
    (ii) USA-based companies,
    (iii) business leaders with USA citizenship, and
    (iv) USA-based grant-giving foundations.

(3) The report must also set out information about the nature of any campaigns receiving donations from those set out in subsection (2), including—
  (a) the stated aims attached to any donations made, and
  (b) any agreements between donees and organisations in receipt of such donations and the donors.

(4) The report published under subsection (1) must include any recommendations considered necessary to protect the integrity of United Kingdom elections.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "the integrity of United Kingdom elections" means the extent to which elections are considered to be free and fair, and have public confidence in their outcomes."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause requires the Government to publish a report on electoral interference originating from the USA and its impact on the integrity of elections in the United Kingdom, focusing on the extent of algorithmic amplification of campaign material by US-based social media companies and of donations from US-based companies and business leaders.

THE EARL OF KINNOULL

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Review: complexity of the statute book

(1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must publish and lay before Parliament a review into the effects of this Act on the complexity of the statute book on electoral law.

(2) The review must in particular consider the complexity of the statute book from the standpoint of—
  (a) candidates for election,
  (b) voters,
  (c) campaign and pressure groups, and
  (d) other persons involved in political activities.

(3) The review must make recommendations for simplifying the statute book in any areas where it uncovers increased complexity."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is intended to allow for a debate on the complexity and simplification of the statute book on electoral law.

Clause 85

BARONESS COFFEY

Clause 85, page 124, line 33, leave out subsection (2)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment and others in the name of Baroness Coffey remove the Henry VIII power to change the Act and require all regulations to go through the affirmative procedure.

BARONESS COFFEY

Clause 85, page 125, line 1, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Baroness Coffey, remove the Henry VIII power to change the Act and require all regulations to go through the affirmative procedure.

BARONESS COFFEY

Clause 85, page 125, line 5, leave out "other"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Baroness Coffey, remove the Henry VIII power to change the Act and require all regulations to go through the affirmative procedure.

BARONESS COFFEY

Clause 85, page 125, line 5, leave out from "section" to end of line 7 and insert "may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment and others in the name of Baroness Coffey remove the Henry VIII power to change the Act and require all regulations to go through the affirmative procedure.

BARONESS COFFEY

Baroness Coffey gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 85 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This removes a Henry VIII power to change the Act.

Clause 90

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

Clause 90, page 127, line 33, at end insert—

"(1A) Sections 17, 18 and 19 of this Act do not come into force until the Secretary of State has published an independent review into the steps necessary to avoid non-qualifying EU or Commonwealth voters incorrectly being automatically added to the electoral roll."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would prevent the provisions on automatic voter registration coming into force until the Secretary of State had published an independent review of the steps necessary to avoid non-qualifying EU or Commonwealth voters being incorrectly automatically added to the electoral roll.

BARONESS HOEY

Clause 90, page 127, line 33, at end insert—

"(1A) Part 1 may come into force once the Secretary of State has laid a report before both Houses as required under section (*Equality impact assessment prior to extending the franchise to younger voters in the UK*)."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, together with the new clause in the name of Baroness Hoey, would require the Secretary of State to produce a report in response to an equality assessment on extending the franchise to younger voters in the UK.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON
LORD BRADY OF ALTRINCHAM

Clause 90, page 127, line 33, at end insert—

"(1A) Part 1 may not come into force until the requirement set out in section (*Review: age of majority*) has been met."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and two others in the name of Baroness O'Neill, would prevent Part 1 of the Act coming into force until the Secretary of State had undertaken a review of the consistency of the age of majority.

LORD FARMER

Clause 90, page 127, line 33, at end insert—

"(1A) Sections 1 and 2 may not come into force until the requirement set out in section (*Assessment of decision-making capabilities of young voters*) has been met."

BARONESS FINN

Clause 90, page 127, line 34, leave out subsection (2) and insert—

"(2) This Part and section (*Consultation with the Parliamentary Parties Panel*) come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

(2A) Parts 1 to 6 may not come into force until the requirement set out in section (*Consultation with the Parliamentary Parties Panel*) has been met."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and another in the name of Baroness Finn, seek to prevent the Act from coming into force until the Secretary of State has consulted the Parliamentary Parties Panel.

BARONESS HOEY

Clause 90, page 127, line 36, leave out paragraphs (a) and (b)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is connected to other amendments in the name of Baroness Hoey to Clause 90 and to the new Clause "Equality impact assessment prior to extending the franchise to younger voters in the UK".

LORD FARMER

Clause 90, page 127, line 40, at end insert—

"(ba) section (*Assessment of decision-making capabilities of young voters*) (assessment of decision-making capabilities of young voters);"

LORD FROST

Clause 90, page 127, line 40, at end insert—

"(ba) section (*Administration and protection of nationality qualifications*) (administration and protection of nationality qualifications);"

Member's explanatory statement
This new Part and its consequential changes would remove voting and registration rights based solely on Commonwealth citizenship throughout the United Kingdom, while preserving those of British and Irish citizens and the existing non-parliamentary rights of the pre-2021 EU retained-rights cohort. It provides for registration review and appeals, and protects the new provisions from modification by the devolved legislatures.

LORD FROST

Clause 90, page 127, line 40, at end insert—

"(ba) sections (*Reciprocal voting rights for Commonwealth citizens*) (Reciprocal voting rights for Commonwealth citizens) and (*Administration and protection of nationality qualifications (No.2)*) (Administration and protection of nationality qualifications (No.2));"

Member's explanatory statement
This new Part and its consequential amendments would replace automatic Commonwealth voting eligibility with eligibility for citizens of Commonwealth countries designated as giving British citizens corresponding voting rights. It preserves British and Irish rights, and non-parliamentary rights for the pre-2021 EU cohort and for qualifying EU citizens under bilateral agreements, and protects the provisions from devolved modification.

BARONESS FINN

Clause 90, page 128, line 11, at end insert—

"(ha) section (*Statutory guidance on the Ballot Secrecy Act 2023*) (Ballot Secrecy Act 2023);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on section "Statutory guidance on the Ballot Secrecy Act 2023".

LORD RENNARD

Clause 90, page 128, line 11, at end insert—

"(ha) section (*Overseas electors: review of feasibility of proposals for facilitating overseas ballots*) (overseas electors: review of feasibility of proposals for facilitating overseas ballots);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on the new clause "Overseas electors: review of feasibility of proposals for facilitating overseas ballots".

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

Clause 90, page 128, line 15, at end insert—

"(ja) section (*Review: age of majority*) (review: age of majority);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and two others in the name of Baroness O'Neill, would prevent Part 1 of the Act coming into force until the Secretary of State had undertaken a review of the consistency of the age of majority.

BARONESS HOEY

Clause 90, page 128, line 15, at end insert—

"(ja) section (*Equality impact assessment prior to extending the franchise to younger voters in the UK*) (equality impact assessment prior to extending the franchise to younger voters in the UK);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is connected to other amendments in the name of Baroness Hoey to Clause 90 and to the new Clause "Equality impact assessment prior to extending the franchise to younger voters in the UK".

LORD PACK

Clause 90, page 128, line 23, at end insert—

"(2A) Any provision of this Act which has not come into force within five years after the day on which this Act is passed shall be repealed."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would repeal any provisions of this Bill that have not come into force within five years of Royal Assent.

LORD PACK

Clause 90, page 128, line 23, at end insert—

"(2A) Any provision in Schedule 22 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act which has not come into force within two years of the day on which this Act is passed shall be repealed."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would remove provisions from Schedule 22 of PPERA 2000 that have not come into force within two years of Royal Assent of this Bill.

LORD FROST

Clause 90, page 128, line 23, at end insert—

"(2A) Regulations under subsection (1) bringing section (*Nationality qualification for voting and registration*) into force must appoint the same day throughout the United Kingdom, and that day must be at least six months after the making of the first regulations under section (*Administration and protection of nationality qualifications*).

(2B) Regulations under subsection (1) or (3) relating to the commencement of Part 1A must preserve the previous nationality qualifications for a poll for which formal notice has been published before the appointed day, and for a recall petition whose signing period has begun before that day."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Part and its consequential changes would remove voting and registration rights based solely on Commonwealth citizenship throughout the United Kingdom, while preserving those of British and Irish citizens and the existing non-parliamentary rights of the pre-2021 EU retained-rights cohort. It provides for registration review and appeals, and protects the new provisions from modification by the devolved legislatures.

LORD FROST

Clause 90, page 128, line 23, at end insert—

"(2A) Regulations under subsection (1) bringing section (*Nationality qualification for voting and registration (No.2)*) into force must appoint the same day throughout the United Kingdom, and that day must be at least six months after the making of both the first regulations under section (*Reciprocal voting rights for Commonwealth citizens*) and the first regulations under section (*Administration and protection of nationality qualifications (No.2)*).

(2B) Regulations under subsection (1) or (3) relating to the commencement of Part 1A must preserve the previous nationality qualifications for a poll for which formal notice has been published before the appointed day, and for a recall petition whose signing period has begun before that day."

Member's explanatory statement

This new Part and its consequential amendments would replace automatic Commonwealth voting eligibility with eligibility for citizens of Commonwealth countries designated as giving British citizens corresponding voting rights. It preserves British and Irish rights, and non-parliamentary rights for the pre-2021 EU cohort and for qualifying EU citizens under bilateral agreements, and protects the provisions from devolved modification.

Representation of the People Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL

AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tabled up to and including

15 October 2026

---

15 October 2026

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS