Representation of the People Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL

AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tabled up to and including

28 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

LORD UDNY-LISTER

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, leave out subsection (2)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would ensure that the minimum voting age of 18 is retained for all elections to the House of Commons, thus maintaining alignment with the minimum age for standing for election to the House of Commons under section 17 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

BARONESS COFFEY
BARONESS FOX OF BUCKLEY

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.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

Clause 1, page 2, line 11, leave out subsection (7)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would seek to retain the existing age qualification of 18 years old for signing a recall petition under the Recall of MPs Act 2015.

After Clause 1

LORD UDNY-LISTER

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause—

"Referendum on extension of right to vote to 16 and 17 year olds

(1) A referendum on lowering the voting age to 16 years old for elections to the House of Commons must be held within two years of the day on which this Act is passed.

(2) The Secretary of State must make regulations by statutory instrument providing for the referendum, including its conduct, franchise and question, following consultation with the Electoral Commission.

(3) 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 would seek to make the Government hold a referendum on lowering the voting age to 16.

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.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

Clause 2, page 2, line 29, at end insert "or a secure children's home"

Member's explanatory statement
This probing amendment seeks to clarify the scope of Clause 2 by excluding secure children's homes from the definition of "youth detention accommodation" for the purposes of disenfranchisement.

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.

Clause 3

LORD FULLER

Clause 3, page 3, line 15, leave out "14" and insert "15"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment provides for registration at age 15, rather than 14, as registration at 15 gives sufficient notice for young people to register to participate in elections.

After Clause 3

LORD FULLER

After Clause 3, insert the following new Clause—

"Amendment to section 214A of the Online Safety Act 2023

In section 214A of the Online Safety Act 2023 (power to require providers of internet services to prevent or restrict access by children to internet services), at the end of subsection (2) insert ", or

(b) in relation to access to internet services containing materials relevant to elections, means a child who is not registered to vote under section 3 of the Representation of the People Act 2026.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to enable young people who have registered to vote to access digital information on social media and other platforms to better inform their voting decisions and to learn how an election operates.

LORD FULLER

After Clause 3, insert the following new Clause—

"Review: age of issuance of National Insurance numbers

Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must publish a review of whether the lowering of the age at which someone can register to vote to 14 years of age under section 3 requires regulation 9 of the Social Security (Crediting and Treatment of Contributions, and National Insurance Numbers) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/769) to be amended such that National Insurance numbers can be issued from the age of 14."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seek to probe whether the age at which a National Insurance number is automatically issued should be altered from 16 to 14 to accommodate the voter registration age being lowered to 16.

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 TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Schedule 1, page 134, line 36, at end insert—

"PART 3

CANVASS CONDUCTED IN ENGLAND BEFORE THE COMING INTO FORCE OF SECTION 3

Introduction

20 (1) This Part of this Schedule applies in relation to an annual canvass conducted under section 9D of RPA 1983 in the implementation period by an English registration officer.

(2) The "implementation period" means the period beginning with the day on which this Act is passed and ending with the coming into force of section 3 of this Act.

(3) In this Part of this Schedule—

"English registration officer" means a registration officer appointed under section 8(2) of RPA 1983;

"pre-commencement canvass" means a canvass described in sub-paragraph (1);

"the RPR (E&W) 2001" means the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/341).

Modification of the purpose of a pre-commencement canvass

21 (1) In relation to a pre-commencement canvass conducted by an English registration officer, section 9D of RPA 1983 (duty to conduct canvass in Great Britain) has effect as follows.

(2) Subsection (2) has effect as if it provided that the purpose of the canvass included ascertaining the names, addresses and dates of birth of persons aged under 16 who will, as a result of section 4(4A) of RPA 1983 (inserted by section 3 of this Act), be entitled (on the coming into force of section 3 of this Act) to be registered in a register maintained by that officer.

(3) But the power to make house to house inquiries under subsection (5) of section 9D does not include power to make inquiries for the purpose of the matter described in sub-paragraph (2).

Youth detention accommodation: no duty to canvass

22 In relation to a pre-commencement canvass conducted by an English registration officer, nothing in section 9D of RPA 1983—

(a) applies in relation to the registration of persons in respect of residence in youth detention accommodation as defined in section 248(1) of the Sentencing Code;

(b) requires the officer to ascertain the names, addresses and dates of birth of persons resident in such accommodation.

Design of canvass communications and form

23 The Electoral Commission must design a version of the communications and form described in regulation 32ZBG(1)(a) of the RPR (E&W) 2001 (canvass communications and forms: Electoral Commission duties) for use in England in relation to a pre-commencement canvass.

24 For that purpose, regulation 32ZBG has effect as if—

(a) in paragraph (1) there were inserted after sub-paragraph (a)—

"(aa) send the communications and form to the Secretary of State before the end of the period of 14 days beginning with the day on which the Representation of the People Act 2026 is passed;";

(b) paragraph (2) were omitted;

(c) for paragraph (4)(d)(iii) there were substituted—

"(iii) to provide the registration officer with the full name, date of birth and nationality of each person aged 14 or 15 who is residing at the address to which the communication relates;";

(d) for paragraph (5)(f) there were substituted—

"(f) require the recipient to provide the full name, date of birth and nationality of each person aged 14 or 15 who is residing at the address to which the form is given.";

(e) after paragraph (5) there were inserted—

"(6) The canvass communication B referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(iii) must require—

(a) the occupier, or

(b) if there is no occupier, or it is not reasonably practicable for the occupier to provide the required information, the person in charge of the premises,

to provide the full name, date of birth and nationality of each person aged 14 or 15 who is residing at the address to which the communication relates."

Other modifications of RPR (E&W) 2001

25 The RPR (E&W) 2001 have effect in relation to a pre-commencement canvass with the modifications set out in paragraphs 26 to 29.

26 Regulation 32ZBA (annual canvass) has effect as if in paragraph (6), after "an address" there were inserted ", or that a person aged 14 or 15 may reside at an address,".

27 Regulation 32ZBD (canvass where changes to register are likely to be required) has effect as if—

(a) in paragraph (4), for "to (9)" there were substituted "to (9ZA)";

(b) after paragraph (9) there were inserted—

"(9ZA) A registration officer may not visit an address in order to speak to a person aged under 16.";

(c) in paragraph (10)—

(i) in the definition of "canvass form" and "paper communication", after "designed" there were inserted "for use in relation to a pre-commencement canvass";

(ii) after the definition of "paper communication" there were inserted—

""pre-commencement canvass" has the meaning given by paragraph 20 of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 2026."

28 Regulation 32ZBE (canvass where changes to register are unlikely to be required) has effect as if—

(a) in paragraph (4), at the end there were inserted "; and

(c) provide to the registration officer the full name, date of birth and nationality of each person aged 14 or 15 who is residing at the address.";

(b) after paragraph (7) there were inserted—

"(7A) If, after complying with the requirements of paragraphs (3) to (6), a registration officer—

(a) has reason to believe that a person aged 14 or 15 may reside at the address, and

(b) is not aware of that person's full name, date of birth or nationality,

the officer must conduct the annual canvass in accordance with regulation 32ZBD in respect of the address.";

(c) in paragraph (8), after "designed" there were inserted "for use in relation to a pre-commencement canvass";

(d) after paragraph (8) there were inserted—

"(9) In this regulation, "pre-commencement canvass" has the meaning given by paragraph 20 of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 2026."

29 Regulation 32ZBF (canvass in respect of particular types of property) has effect as if—

(a) in paragraph (4), for "paragraph (5) or" there were substituted "paragraphs (5) and (5ZA) or paragraph";

(b) after paragraph (5) there were inserted—

"(5ZA) The registration officer must attempt to make contact with the responsible person and must request the full name, nationality and date of birth of each person aged 14 or 15 who is residing at that property.";

(c) in paragraph (6)—

(i) for "paragraph (5) or" there were substituted "paragraphs (5) and (5ZA) or paragraph";

(ii) after "appropriate" there were inserted "(subject to paragraph (6A))";

(d) after paragraph (6) there were inserted—

"(6A) A registration officer may not visit the property in order to speak to a person aged under 16.";

(e) in paragraph (7), for "paragraph (5) or" there were substituted "paragraphs (5) and (5ZA) or paragraph";

(f) in paragraph (8), for "paragraph (5) or" there were substituted "paragraphs (5) and (5ZA) or paragraph".

Retention of information

30 (1) Where an English registration officer obtains personal information relating to a person aged 14 or 15 when conducting a pre-commencement canvass, the officer may retain that information until the end of the specified day.

(2) The "specified day" is the earliest of—

(a) the last day of the period of 6 months beginning with the day on which section 3 of this Act is commenced,

(b) the day on which the registration officer receives from the person an application made under section 10ZC of RPA 1983 for registration in a register maintained by the officer, and

(c) the day on which the registration officer gives the person an invitation to apply for registration under section 9E(1) of RPA 1983.

(3) Nothing in this paragraph affects the ability of the registration officer to otherwise lawfully retain the information described in sub-paragraph (1) after the specified day.

(4) In this paragraph, "personal information" means a person's name, address, email address, telephone number, date of birth or nationality."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would enable a registration officer carrying out a canvass in England before Clause 3 of the Bill (entitlement to be registered before reaching voting age) comes into force to obtain information about 14 and 15 year olds and to retain that information for use when inviting those persons to register once clause 3 is in force.

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.

Clause 7

LORD HAYWARD

Clause 7, page 10, line 23, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seek to allow for a debate on the complexity of electoral law as affected by this Bill.

LORD HAYWARD

Clause 7, page 11, line 29, leave out subsection (5)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seek to allow for a debate on electoral bureaucracy and administration.

Clause 8

LORD HAYWARD

Clause 8, page 12, line 29, leave out subsection (7)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seek to allow for a debate on the complexity of electoral law affected by this Bill.

Clause 14

LORD HAYWARD

Clause 14, page 20, line 21, leave out subsection (2)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seek to allow for a debate on the complexity of electoral law affected by this Act.

LORD HAYWARD

Clause 14, page 20, line 37, leave out subsection (6)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seek to allow for a debate about electoral bureaucracy and administration.

Clause 15

LORD FULLER

Clause 15, page 21, line 15, at end insert—

"(2A) A local authority in England, Wales or Scotland must ensure that information given to relevant young people relating to registering to vote in an election is neutral or politically balanced and not designed to favour one outcome or party over another."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is intended to ensure that all sides of the argument are presented to relevant young people under clause 15 regardless of the local authority's political control.

Clause 16

LORD FULLER

Clause 16, page 22, line 26, at end insert—

(1A) A Health and Social Care trust must ensure that information given to relevant young people relating to registering to vote in an election is neutral or politically balanced and not designed to favour one outcome or party over another."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is intended to ensure that Health and Social Care trusts in Northern Ireland present all sides of the argument to relevant young people when providing information about registering to vote.

After Clause 16

LORD YOUNG OF ACTON
BARONESS FOX OF BUCKLEY

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.

BARONESS HOEY

After Clause 16, 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 16, 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.

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE
LORD RENNARD
BARONESS PRASHAR

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
BARONESS MEYER

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
BARONESS FOX OF BUCKLEY

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 FROST
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 16, 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 16, 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.

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.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Assessment of susceptibility of 16 and 17 years old to election-related disinformation and foreign interference

(1) Within eight months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must publish an assessment of the susceptibility of persons aged 16 and 17 to election-related foreign interference and electoral disinformation.

(2) The Secretary of State must lay the assessment before both Houses of Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would require the Secretary of State to conduct an assessment of the susceptibility of 16 and 17 year olds to foreign interference and electoral disinformation.

LORD FULLER

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Age-appropriate election information

The Secretary of State or Electoral Commission must take steps to publish neutral and impartial information relating to the conduct of elections on social media channels, which is suitable for those who may be a "relevant child" under section 214A(2) of the Online Safety Act 2023 (power to require providers of internet services to prevent or restrict access by children to internet services), but who are registered to vote and may be under 16 years of age."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to ensure that politically impartial information is published suitable for 15 year olds who are registered to vote and who will have never voted before.

LORD FULLER

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Duty of non-partisan election education

Schools and learning institutions must ensure that information given to anyone eligible to be registered to vote who is aged 18 or under about any election is neutral or politically balanced and not designed to favour one outcome or party over another."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is intended to protect teachers and ensure learners aged 14 to 18 can make informed decisions about their vote.

LORD FULLER

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Prohibition of election materials in educational establishments

No party-political posters, communications or current candidate leaflets related to an election may be displayed in a school or educational establishment attended by learners aged 18 or under except where used by a teacher to illustrate the conduct of the election and then only in a politically balanced manner."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to prevent educational establishments from being used for campaigning purposes outside structured classroom activities.

BARONESS PINNOCK

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Review: boundaries of electoral areas

The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, lay a report before both Houses of Parliament that reviews what, if any, effect the extension of the right to vote to 16 and 17 year olds should have on the number and boundaries of electoral areas for the purpose of the election of councillors."

LORD FULLER

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Hustings in educational establishments

If it is considered expedient by a learning establishment which is attended by voters aged 18 or under to invite candidates in an election to address the learners

in a hustings, all the candidates, or representatives of those candidates, in that election must be given reasonable notice to attend the husting."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to ensure hustings held in schools are politically impartial.

LORD HAYWARD

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Review of cost of duties to raise awareness and provide assistance

Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must publish a report on the costs to local authorities of the duties in sections 15 and 16 (duties to raise awareness and provide assistance)."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to probe the estimates in the impact assessment of the Bill of the national costs of its provisions.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Enfranchisement of certain foreign nationals at parliamentary elections

In section 1(1)(c) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (entitlement to vote in parliamentary elections), after "Ireland" insert "or a foreign national who has—

(i) the right of abode in the United Kingdom,
(ii) settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme,
(iii) indefinite leave to enter the United Kingdom, or
(iv) indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom;"."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause expands the right to vote in General Elections to residents of the UK who have the right to abode in the UK or leave to enter or remain for an indefinite period.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Enfranchisement of certain foreign nationals at local government elections in England

In section (2)(1)(c) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (local government electors), after "Ireland" insert ", a qualifying foreign citizen;""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause expands the right to vote in local government elections in England to extend to foreign citizens with a right to enter or remain in the UK.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

★ After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Citizenship education for newly enfranchised young people

(1) The Secretary of State must by regulations, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, make provision for the establishment of a catch-up programme of political and media literacy and citizenship education in relation to elections in secondary schools to support the extension of the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds.

(2) Regulations under subsection (1) may in particular and without limitation, within the citizenship education programme and across the schools curriculum—

(a) make provision for the promotion of awareness among relevant persons of current electoral systems in the United Kingdom and any pending such systems;

(b) make provision for education on political and media literacy in relation to elections;

(c) make provision for the promotion of electoral confidence and participation of socioeconomically disadvantaged or politically underrepresented groups, including girls and young women;

(d) make provision for teacher training and continuing professional development to support the programme of political and media literacy and citizenship education in relation to elections.

(3) Before making regulations under subsection (1) the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a report on the likely impact on the electoral participation of relevant persons if a programme of citizenship and political and media literacy education in relation to elections is not provided.

(4) A report laid under subsection (3) must include—

(a) an assessment of existing political and media literacy and citizenship education in relation to elections and electoral participation rates of particular demographics of relevant persons, including girls and young women, to be determined by the Secretary of State, and

(b) an assessment of the likely impact on particular demographic groups of relevant persons, including girls and young women, if a programme of political and media Literacy and citizenship education in relation to elections is not provided.

(5) In preparing the report laid under subsection (4), the Secretary of State must consult—

(a) children and young people who are, or will be within two years, newly enfranchised to vote;

(b) teachers and education professionals;

(c) experts, charities and civil society organisations offering support to promote democratic education, citizenship, political and media literacy, and electoral participation.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "relevant persons" are children and young people who—

(a) are enfranchised as a result of section 1 of this Act, or

(b) are entitled to be registered as a parliamentary or local government elector before reaching voting age as a result of section 3 of this Act."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the Secretary of State to establish a catch-up programme of political and media literacy and citizenship education in relation to elections in secondary schools to support votes at 16, including measures to promote electoral confidence and participation among socio-economically disadvantaged or politically underrepresented groups including girls and young women.

Clause 17

LORD FULLER

★ Clause 17, page 23, line 13, at end insert—

"(ba) the person is not an EU or Commonwealth citizen,"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment retains individual voter registration for EU and Commonwealth electors.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 17, page 23, line 14, leave out "the person appears to the officer to be" and insert "the officer is satisfied the person is"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the officer to be satisfied that the person is of voting age.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

Clause 17, page 23, line 15, at end insert—

"(ca) the officer has verified, by means of prescribed evidence or information obtained lawfully from a public authority, that the person satisfies the nationality qualification and, where applicable, the immigration status requirements for entitlement to registration in that register,"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is seeking to require that an electoral registration officer be required to positively verify nationality and any relevant immigration statuses before automatically adding a person to an electoral register under the new section 12A of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

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.

LORD RENNARD
BARONESS THORNHILL

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

"(1A) To enable the duty under subsection (1) to be fulfilled the Department of Work and Pensions must provide every registration officer with the name, address, date of birth and nationality of each individual in their district with a National Insurance number.

(1B) The registration officer must add those electors who they are satisfied are eligible for inclusion to the full electoral register."

Member's explanatory statement
The amendment requires the Department for Work and Pensions to supply registration officers with the details of those with National Insurance numbers for inclusion in the register.

LORD RENNARD
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

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

"(1A) To enable the duty under subsection (1) to be fulfilled the Department of Work and Pensions must provide every registration officer with the name, address, date of birth and nationality of each individual in their district to whom they issue a National Insurance number ahead of their 16th birthday.

(1B) The registration officer must add those electors who they are satisfied are eligible for inclusion to the full electoral register."

Member's explanatory statement
The amendment requires the Department for Work and Pensions to supply registration officers with the details of young people who are issued with National Insurance numbers ahead of their 16th birthday for inclusion in the register.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

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

"(1A) A registration officer must not register a person, or alter a person's entry in a register, under this section unless that the person is a British citizen.

(1B) Subsection (1A) applies, in particular, to the registration of a person, or the alteration of a person's entry in a register, who is—

(a) a citizen of a member State of the European Union (other than the United Kingdom), or

(b) a qualifying Commonwealth citizen within the meaning of section 4 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (entitlement to be registered as parliamentary or local government elector).

(1C) Nothing in this section prevents a person falling within subsection (1B) from being registered following an application made by that person under section 10ZC or section 10A of the 1983 Act."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and another in the name of Lord Jackson of Peterborough, seek to limit registration without application to British citizens.

LORD RENNARD
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE
BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON

Clause 17, page 24, line 13, at end insert—

"12AA Education provider data sharing

(1) To enable the duty under section 12A to be fulfilled, every English higher education provider and English further education provider must enter into a data sharing agreement with the local registration officer to add eligible students to the electoral register.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1)—

(a) a "data sharing agreement" is an agreement between the education provider and their local authority whereby the provider shares the—

(i) name,

(ii) address,

(iii) nationality,

(iv) date of birth, and

(v) national insurance number

of all eligible students enrolling or enrolled (or both) with the education provider.

(b) "English higher education provider" and "English further education provider" have the same meaning as section 83 of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires higher and further education providers in England to share data with local registration officers to enable young electors to be registered.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 17, page 24, line 19, leave out "the person appears to the officer to be" and insert "the officer is satisfied the person is"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the officer to be satisfied that the person is of voting age.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 17, page 25, line 2, leave out "appear to the officer to be" and insert "are"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment ensures that those added to the register are of voting age.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 17, page 25, leave out line 25 and insert—

"(b) the requirement to give the notice in writing;"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires notices that a registration officer intends to register a person without having received an application to be sent in writing.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 17, page 26, line 17, leave out "for the time being"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to clarify what happens to the records once an officer is no longer in charge of maintaining the record.

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 17, page 26, line 36, leave out "5" and insert "6"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to probe the rationale behind 5 years.

BARONESS COFFEY
LORD HAYWARD

The above-named Lords give notice of their 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.

Clause 18

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to probe whether other parts of the UK should adopt Northern Ireland's approach to access to the electoral register.

Clause 19

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 19 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to probe whether other parts of the UK should adopt Northern Ireland's approach to access to the electoral register.

After Clause 19

LORD PACK
BARONESS PINNOCK

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.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 19, insert the following new Clause—

"Duty to implement automated voter registration

(1) The Secretary of State must implement a system for automated voter registration by 31 October 2028.

(2) Implementation must, as a minimum, be based on use of the HM Passport Office (HMPO) and National Insurance number systems.

(3) The HMPO systems must be modified to ensure—
(a) an initial version of the HMPO database is exported to electoral registration officers to enable those officers to identify, validate and register voters;
(b) updates to the HMPO database are exported on a monthly basis to electoral registration officers to enable those officers to identify, validate and register voters.

(4) The National Insurance number systems must be modified to ensure—
(a) an initial version of the National Insurance number database is exported to electoral registration officers to enable those officers to identify, validate and register voters;
(b) updates to the National Insurance number database are exported on a monthly basis to electoral registration officers to enable those officers to identify, validate and register new voters."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would place a duty on the Secretary of State to implement automated voter registration by 31st October 2028 based, as a minimum, on using the HMPO and National Insurance number systems.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 19, insert the following new Clause—

"Registration without application: checks for multiple registration

(1) This section applies where a registration officer proposes to register a person, or to alter a person's entry, in a register of electors without an application, under this Act or regulations made under it.

(2) Before making the entry or alteration, the registration officer must take reasonable steps to establish whether the person is already registered in respect of another address, whether in the officer's own registration area or in another.

(3) In complying with subsection (2), the registration officer must check the person's details against—

(a) the registers held by that officer,

(b) information made available to that officer under this Act, and

(c) any data-matching service that the Electoral Commission has recommended for this purpose.

(4) Where the check identifies a possible duplicate entry, the registration officer must—

(a) notify the person in writing and invite them to confirm their qualifying address,

(b) notify the registration officer for the other address, who must respond within 10 working days of receipt, and

(c) not make the entry or alteration until satisfied that no unlawful duplication would result.

(5) Each registration officer must, at least once in each 12 month period and before each parliamentary election or referendum, check the entries of electors registered without application against those of other electors, and must investigate any possible duplicate entry identified.

(6) Where a registration officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence of voting more than once has been or may be committed, the officer may refer the matter to the relevant police force.

(7) The Electoral Commission must issue guidance on the exercise of functions under this section, and registration officers must have regard to it.

(8) The Electoral Commission must include in its annual report the number of possible duplicate entries identified and resolved under this section in the period covered.

(9) Nothing in this section authorises processing of personal data in contravention of data protection legislation."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause seeks to require registration officers to check for duplicate registrations before and after adding people to the register without application, so that automatic registration does not weaken the integrity of the register.

LORD RENNARD

After Clause 19, insert the following new Clause—

"Registration of voters: review of electoral arrangements

(1) Following the publication of a report under section 24, and before 31 October 2031, the Secretary of State must arrange for an independent review of the impact that the registration of voters without an application, as under section 17, could have on the number and boundaries of parliamentary constituencies.

(2) A report must be prepared following an independent review under subsection (1) and a copy provided to the Secretary of State."

Clause 20

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

Clause 20, page 33, line 3, at end insert—

"(6) Pilots under this section that test section 17 provisions may only apply to British citizens."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to limit the pilot of registration without application to British citizens.

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 20 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to probe whether other parts of the UK should adopt Northern Ireland's approach to access to the electoral register.

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.

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 21 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to probe whether other parts of the UK should adopt Northern Ireland's approach to access to the electoral register.

Clause 22

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 22 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to probe whether other parts of the UK should adopt Northern Ireland's approach to access to the electoral register.

Clause 23

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 23 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to probe whether other parts of the UK should adopt Northern Ireland's approach to access to the electoral register.

Clause 24

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 24 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to probe whether other parts of the UK should adopt Northern Ireland's approach to access to the electoral register.

Clause 25

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 25 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to probe whether other parts of the UK should adopt Northern Ireland's approach to access to the electoral register.

Clause 32

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 32 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to allow for a debate on electoral bureaucracy and administration

Clause 34

LORD RENNARD

Clause 34, page 43, line 2, leave out "5 p.m." and insert "11.59 p.m."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment, and a consequential amendment in the name of Lord Rennard, seeks to probe why 5 p.m. has been chosen as the deadline for registering to vote.

LORD RENNARD

Clause 34, page 43, line 17, leave out "5 p.m." and insert "11.59 p.m."

Member's explanatory statement
This is consequential on Lord Rennard's amendment to Clause 34, page 43, line 2.

Clause 36

BARONESS COFFEY

Baroness Coffey gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 36 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition to Clause 36 seeks to probe why date of birth is being substituted with month and year of birth on electoral identity cards in Northern Ireland.

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 LISTER OF BURTERSETT
LORD PACK

After Clause 38, 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.

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
LORD FOULKES OF CUMNOCK
LORD KINNOCK
LORD BLUNKETT

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.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause—

"Verification of immigration status for electoral eligibility

(1) The Secretary of State must by regulations made by statutory instrument make provision for electoral registration officers to verify a person's immigration status where that status is material to entitlement to registration as an elector.

(2) Regulations under subsection (1) must provide for—
  (a) a secure and proportionate method of obtaining relevant confirmation from the Secretary of State or another public authority,
  (b) the use of alternative documentary evidence where an automated check is unavailable or inconclusive,
  (c) the issue of a notice to a person before a refusal or removal based on an adverse verification result,

(d) a reasonable opportunity for a person to supply further evidence or correct an error,

(e) an effective right of appeal for a person against a decision, and

(f) restrictions on the use, retention and disclosure of personal information obtained under this section.

(3) An inconclusive automated check must not, of itself, be treated as establishing that a person is not entitled to be registered.

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

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to require that a secure process be established to enable electoral registration officers to verify a person's immigration status where it determines electoral eligibility. It seeks to safeguard access to registration and provides a mechanism for appeals.

LORD FULLER

After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause—

"Voter registration: unique identification number

(1) The Secretary of State must make regulations by statutory instrument to ensure that when an individual registers to vote, that registration is assigned a single unique identification number.

(2) The unique identification number set out in regulations under in subsection (1) may be—

(a) a Government Gateway user ID,

(b) a passport number,

(c) a National Insurance number, or

(d) any other appropriate number as set out in regulations.

(3) The regulations must set out that—

(a) the unique identification number assigned under subsection (2) is stored in the confidential part of the electoral register alongside the details of each individual voter,

(b) before and after any election an election officer may access all unique identification numbers in order to identify duplicate registrations and votes, and

(c) following any election, the Electoral Commission may request information from election officers about how many and which voters have cast ballots on more than one occasion by reference to the unique identification number.

(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 amendment would require each voter registration to be accompanied by a unique code to identify voters, which can be accessed by election officers and the Electoral Commission to better ensure the integrity of the register and to more easily identify duplicate registrations and where voters may have voted more than once.

Clause 39

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 39 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to allow for a debate on electoral bureaucracy and administration.

Clause 40

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 40 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to allow for a debate on electoral bureaucracy and administration.

After Clause 40

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

After Clause 40, insert the following new Clause—

"Payments by and to returning officers: repeal of proposed transfer of functions

(1) Omit—
  (a) paragraph 6(3) of Schedule 21 to PPERA 2000 (which amends section 29 of RPA 1983 (payments by and to returning officers)), and
  (b) paragraph 7 of that Schedule (which amends regulations which modify section 29 of RPA 1983).

(2) The powers to make regulations conferred by the amendments made by those paragraphs are to be treated as never having been in force (despite section 163(3)(d) of PPERA 2000).

(3) In consequence of subsection (1), omit the following—
  (a) paragraph 6(7)(a) of Schedule 21 to PPERA 2000;

(b) paragraph 107 of Schedule 1 to the Electoral Administration Act 2006;
(c) section 18(3) of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would repeal provisions which would transfer functions under section 29 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (payments by and to returning officers) from the Secretary of State to the Electoral Commission.

LORD PACK
BARONESS PINNOCK

After Clause 40, insert the following new Clause—

"Payments to returning officers

In section 29 of RPA 1983 (payments by and to returning officer), after subsection (9) insert—

"(10) Payments under this section must be made no later than one calendar year after the polling day for the election or referendum to which the payment applies.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment ensures that payments to returning officers are made within one year of an election or referendum.

Clause 42

BARONESS HAZARIKA

Clause 42, page 50, line 25, at end insert—

"(3A) After rule 6 insert—

"6ZA (1) A person is not validly nominated unless the person makes a declaration that they assent to undertake an enhanced DBS check and obtain an enhanced DBS certificate if elected.

(2) The Secretary of State may make regulations which make necessary provision for the designation of an organisation from which the DBS check under paragraph 1 must be obtained.

(3) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament draft regulations under paragraph 2 before the end of the period of 90 days beginning with the day on which the Representation of the People Act 2026 is passed.

(4) For the purposes of this rule, "enhanced DBS check" means an enhanced check with the Disclosure and Barring Service for the purposes of Part V of the Police Act 1997.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would require candidates in a parliamentary election to agree to undertake and fund an enhanced DBS check if elected, to be obtained from an organisation to be designated by the Secretary of State.

Clause 44

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 44 stand part of the Bill.

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.""

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 46, insert the following new Clause—

"Declaration of membership of foreign elected bodies

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

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

"Declaration of membership of foreign elected bodies

8A (1) A person is not validly nominated unless the person makes a declaration stating whether they are a member of any elected legislature or other elected public body of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom.

(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) 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 (declaration of membership of foreign elected bodies), 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 whether or not they are a member of a foreign elected body.

Clause 47

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Clause 47, page 59, line 14, at end insert—

"(A1) Schedule 5 to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 (c. 14 (N.I.)) (local elections rules) is amended as set out in subsections (1) and (1A)."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on my amendment to Clause 47, page 59, line 21.

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Clause 47, page 59, line 15, leave out from "34" to "procedure" in line 16 and insert "(voting"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on my amendment to Clause 47, page 59, line 21.

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Clause 47, page 59, line 21, at end insert—

"(1A) In rule 41 (procedure on close of poll), in paragraph (1)(da) (completed corresponding number lists), for "rule 16A including the part that was" substitute "rule 26(3)(e) that were"."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would update an incorrect reference relating to completed corresponding number lists so that it correctly refers to the rule that governs the provision of corresponding number lists to polling station presiding officers for local elections in Northern Ireland. This is equivalent to Clause 47(4)(a) of the Bill.

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Clause 47, page 60, line 10, after "subsections" insert "(1A),"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would provide for the new subsection inserted by my amendment to Clause 47, page 59, line 21 to have retrospective effect.

Clause 48

BARONESS COFFEY
LORD ELLIOTT OF BALLINAMALLARD

Clause 48, page 60, line 20, leave out sub-paragraph (ii)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to retain the requirement for identification to contain a photograph to identify a voter.

BARONESS COFFEY
LORD ELLIOTT OF BALLINAMALLARD

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 COFFEY

Clause 48, page 60, line 28, leave out "or first initial"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would require a full name, not an initial, when a bank card is used to identify a voter.

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.

LORD FULLER

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

"except corporate purchasing cards and pay as you go currency cards."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment probes whether corporate purchasing cards or pay as you go currency cards will be accepted as a form of voter identification.

LORD FULLER

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

"(2A) The Secretary of State must by regulations made by statutory instrument ensure a payment card or a cash withdrawal card used for the purposes set out in paragraph (1H)(m) of Rule 37 of Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 is marked to demonstrate voter eligibility.

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

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would ensure eligible bank cards are marked so it is clear who meets the electoral requirements for voter identity.

BARONESS COFFEY
LORD ELLIOTT OF BALLINAMALLARD

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 1, at end insert—

"(IJZA) A document referred to in paragraph (1H)(m) may only be used as a specified document if the holder of a document under that

paragraph has undergone a credit check in applying for that document."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires a credit check when a bank card is used to identify a voter.

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.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 48, 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.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause—

"Voter identification reporting requirements: removal of cut-off date

(1) Section 59A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), omit "each of the first two".

(3) In subsection (5), for "the first" substitute "all"."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would require local authorities to continue to complete voter identification evaluation forms following local and general elections, beyond the current cut-off of the next general election. This would provide continuing data to the Electoral Commission and others to track where, and in what ways, eligible voters encounter barriers to voting because of voter ID requirements.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause—

"Annual report on the operation of voter identification at polling stations

(1) The Electoral Commission must publish an annual report on the operation of the requirement to produce identification at polling stations, including an analysis of the information collected under rule 40B of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (parliamentary election rules) and of the ballot paper refusal lists completed under rule 40ZB of that Schedule, or under any corresponding provision for other elections.

(2) In preparing each report, the Commission must consult organisations representing or working with the electors most at risk of being unable to vote because of that requirement, including any advisory board or panel on which the Commission sits for that purpose, and must share the information mentioned in subsection (1) with them in a form which does not identify any individual.

(3) Each report must include a summary of the evidence and comments received under subsection (2) and the Commission's response to them."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to require the Electoral Commission to publish an annual report on voter identification, drawing on polling station evaluation data and ballot paper refusal lists. Before publishing, the Electoral Commission would have to consult organisations representing the electors most affected and share the data with them in anonymised form, and the report would have to include their evidence and the Commission's response.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause—

"Review of accepted voter identification documents

(1) Within the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State must review whether further documents should be added to the documents accepted as proof of identity at polling stations under rule 37(1H) of Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (parliamentary election rules), by regulations under rule 37(1Q) of that Schedule.

(2) In carrying out each review, the Secretary of State must have particular regard to electors under the age of 25, who are less likely than other electors to hold an accepted document or bank card.

(3) In carrying out each review, the Secretary of State must consult the Electoral Commission and organisations representing or working with electors who are less likely than others to hold an accepted document or bank card, and must have regard to the Commission's most recent report under section (*Annual report on the operation of voter identification at polling stations*).

(4) The Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament a report on each review, setting out the documents considered, any documents added or to be added, and the reasons for not adding any document considered."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would require the Secretary of State to conduct an annual review on whether further forms of identification should be accepted at polling stations, with particular regard to voters under 25, who are less likely than others to hold accepted ID. It would also ensure more broadly that the list of accepted ID is kept under review rather than being treated as settled by any changes made in this Bill, including the addition of bank cards.

LORD BLUNKETT

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause—

"Blind and partially sighted voters: equipment and secret voting

(1) Rule 29 (equipment of polling stations) of Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 (parliamentary elections rules) is amended as follows.

(2) In paragraph (3)(a), at end insert "independently and in secret".

(3) For paragraph (3A) substitute—

"(3A) The returning officer shall also provide each polling station with such equipment as is necessary to ensure that relevant persons are able to vote independently and in secret, including—

(a) tactile equipment that enables the voter to navigate the ballot paper and accurately mark their chosen candidate without assistance, and

(b) audio equipment that enables the voter to access and review the content of the ballot paper in the language in which it is printed without assistance.

(3AA) For the purposes of paragraph (3A)(b), a person is able to vote independently and in secret only if they are not required to rely on the assistance of the presiding officer, companion, or any other person to navigate, review and mark the ballot paper.""

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require certain equipment to be provided to people who find it difficult or impossible to vote because they are blind, partially sighted, or because of another disability in order for them to be able to vote independently and in secret.

LORD YOUNG OF ACTON

★ After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause—

"Voter identification: parity with online age verification

(1) A document is not a specified document for the purposes of rule 37 of Schedule 1 to RPA 1983, or any corresponding provision applying to a relevant election, unless it is a government-issued identity document of a description which would satisfy the requirement made by regulations under section 214A of the Online Safety Act 2023 (power to require providers of internet services to prevent or restrict access by children to internet services).

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations make such amendments to RPA 1983, and to any other enactment relating to a relevant election, as the Secretary of State considers necessary in consequence of subsection (1).

(3) Regulations under subsection (2) are to be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

(4) In this section—

"government-issued identity document" means a document issued by or on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom, a devolved administration or the government of another country or territory;

"relevant election" means a parliamentary election or a local government election in England."

Member's explanatory statement
This probing amendment would mean that, if the regulations restricting under-16s' access to social media require users to prove their age with government-issued ID, voters would have to meet the same standard at the polling station.

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.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH
BARONESS FOX OF BUCKLEY

After Clause 49, insert the following new Clause—

"Publication of postal vote returns before polling day

(1) A returning officer must publish information about postal votes received for each relevant electoral area in an election to which this Act applies.

(2) The information must be published—
(a) on the first working day after postal ballot papers are first issued, and
(b) on each subsequent working day up to and including the day before polling day.

(3) The information published under subsection (1) must state, for each relevant electoral area—
(a) the number of postal votes received,
(b) the number of postal ballot papers issued, and
(c) the date and time at which the figures are accurate.

(4) Information published under this section must not identify, or enable the identification of—

(a) how any person has voted, or

(b) whether any particular person has returned a postal vote.

(5) Where the number of postal ballot papers issued in a relevant electoral area is less than the minimum number prescribed by the Secretary of State, the returning officer may aggregate figures with those for one or more adjoining electoral areas for the purposes of complying with subsection (4).

(6) The information must be published on—

(a) the website of the relevant returning officer, and

(b) such other platform or medium as the returning officer considers appropriate.

(7) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make provision about the form, content and publication of information under this section.

(8) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(9) In this section, "relevant electoral area" means such ward, electoral division or other area as may be prescribed by regulations."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require returning officers to publish daily running totals of postal votes returned for relevant electoral areas before polling day, with safeguards to protect ballot secrecy.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

After Clause 49, insert the following new Clause—

"Verification of changes to postal ballot delivery addresses

(1) Where an elector requests that postal voting documents be sent to an address other than the address at which the elector is registered, the registration officer must verify that the request has been made or authorised by the elector.

(2) The Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for the conduct of verification of changes to postal ballot delivery addresses under section (1), including—

(a) independent confirmation from each elector that the change to the delivery address was personally requested or authorised by that elector,

(b) verification of the identity of the person making the request,

(c) notification to the elector by a secure means independent of the proposed delivery address, and

(d) enhanced scrutiny where the registration officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that a request has been made without the elector's knowledge or consent.

(3) Where the proposed delivery address falls within an electoral registration area administered by another registration officer, the registration officer authorising the request must notify that officer by secure electronic means as soon as reasonably practicable.

(4) A notification under subsection (3) must include—
  (a) the name of the elector,
  (b) the electoral area in which the elector is registered,
  (c) the proposed postal ballot delivery address, and
  (d) the election or elections to which the postal voting arrangement relates.

(5) A registration officer receiving a notification under subsection (3) must have regard to that information when identifying potentially suspicious patterns of postal ballot redirection, including multiple postal ballots being directed to the same address from different electoral areas.

(6) Where a proposed delivery address falls outside the elector's parliamentary constituency but remains within the area administered by the same registration officer, that officer must record the redirection for the purposes of identifying any such patterns.

(7) Information obtained or disclosed under this section may be used only for electoral administration, the verification of postal voting arrangements, or the prevention and investigation of electoral offences, and must not be disclosed except as authorised by law.

(8) The Secretary of State must make regulations by statutory instrument to make appropriate provision for anonymous electors and persons whose safety, disability or other exceptional circumstances require alternative verification or notification arrangements under this section.

(9) 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 strengthen safeguards against postal voting fraud by requiring human verification of all requests to redirect postal ballot papers and mandatory notification between electoral registration officers where ballots are sent outside an elector's registered electoral area.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

After Clause 49, insert the following new Clause—

"Enhanced verification of multiple postal voting applications at a residential address

(1) Where, in connection with a relevant election, six or more electors registered at the same residential address have applied for, or have in force, arrangements to vote by post, the registration officer of the area must undertake an enhanced verification review.

(2) An enhanced verification review must include—

(a) verification of the identity of each elector concerned,

(b) reasonable steps to obtain independent confirmation from each elector that the postal voting arrangement was personally requested or authorised by that elector,

(c) consideration of whether there are reasonable grounds to suspect an unauthorised application, undue influence or other electoral offence, and

(d) a record of the steps taken and the outcome of the review.

(3) Where a review under subsection (1) gives rise to reasonable grounds to suspect an unauthorised application or undue influence, the registration officer may require an elector to attend an in-person appointment for the purpose of confirming the elector's identity and the authenticity of the application.

(4) Before requiring attendance under subsection (3), the officer must consider whether verification by an accessible alternative, including a home visit or secure remote procedure, would be sufficient and ensure that they are meeting all equality and disability considerations.

(5) The fact that six or more electors share a residential address does not, of itself, constitute grounds for refusing or cancelling a postal voting arrangement or for withholding a postal ballot paper.

(6) The Secretary of State must by regulations made by statutory instrument make provision for the conduct of reviews under this section, including—

(a) the treatment of separately occupied dwellings and communal accommodation,

(b) reasonable adjustments and alternative means of verification under subsection (4),

(c) the protection of personal information and the secrecy of the ballot,

(d) timely completion of reviews without unnecessary interference with the exercise of the franchise, and

(e) a process for notification of adverse decisions and rights of review or appeal.

(7) In this section "relevant election" means a parliamentary or local government election.

(8) 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 strengthen safeguards against postal voting fraud by requiring enhanced individual verification where six or more electors at the same residential address have made applications to vote by post. It seeks to require independent verification of each elector's authorisation and permit in-person checks where there is reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing.

BARONESS PINNOCK

★ After Clause 49, insert the following new Clause—

"Absent voting: requirement for issuance of postal ballots

In regulation 71 of The Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/341), at end insert "and no earlier than a date specified by the Electoral Commission.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would further require postal votes to be issued by a date specified by the Electoral Commission in its guidance for general elections.

Schedule 3

LORD FROST
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH
BARONESS FOX OF BUCKLEY

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
BARONESS PINNOCK

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 RENNARD
BARONESS PINNOCK

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

"(g) the number of postal ballots—
(i) issued;
(ii) delivered before or on polling day;
(iii) delivered after polling day.
(h) when postal votes are provided and when postal votes expire."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment sets out additional information relating to postal votes that could be required to be provided under regulations made under clause 50.

LORD FULLER

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

"(g) those electors who may have voted more than once;
(h) those electors who may have registered or been registered to vote more than once."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would allow the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to access information on electors who have voted or registered to vote multiple times in order to maintain the integrity of the election.

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.

Clause 51

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 51 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to allow for a debate on the complexity of electoral law as affected by this Bill and electoral bureaucracy and administration.

Clause 52

LORD HAYWARD

Lord Hayward gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 52 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement
This opposition, and others in the name of Lord Hayward, seeks to allow for a debate on the complexity of electoral law as affected by this Act.

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.

LORD PACK
BARONESS PINNOCK

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Poll cards

Within 12 months of the day on which this section comes into force, the Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament setting out the progress made on, and further plans for, improving the design of poll cards."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on improvements to the design of poll cards.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH
LORD FROST

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Commencement of counting at local elections

(1) The returning officer at a local election must make arrangements for the verification and counting of votes to commence on the day on which the poll is held.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), counting commences when the opening of ballot boxes and verification of ballot paper accounts begins.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply where the returning officer, having consulted the Electoral Commission, determines that commencing the count on the day of the poll is not reasonably practicable because of—

(a) an emergency or other event beyond the returning officer's control, or

(b) a risk to the safety of persons involved in the count.

(4) A returning officer who makes a determination under subsection (3) must—

(a) record the reasons in writing,

(b) notify the Electoral Commission as soon as practicable, and

(c) commence the count at the earliest practicable time.

(5) Where elections for more than one local authority area or more than one office are held on the same day, the duty in subsection (1) applies to each election.

(6) The Electoral Commission must publish, within three months after each ordinary local election day, a report on the number of returning officers who relied on subsection (3) and the reasons given.

(7) The Secretary of State must by regulations make such consequential amendments to the rules made under section 36 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (local elections in England) as are necessary to give effect to this section.

(8) In this section "local 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.

(9) 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 requires counting at local elections to begin on polling day.

LORD RENNARD
BARONESS THORNHILL

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Power to pilot flexible voting

(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for flexible voting options.

(2) Regulations under this section ("pilot regulations") may be made so as to have effect for a specified period.

(3) Pilot regulations must specify certain options with the objective of making voting quicker, more convenient and more accessible.

(4) Options under subsection (3) may include—
  (a) voting in advance before the main polling day;
  (b) voting at a transportable polling station;
  (c) voting at alternative polling stations;
  (d) voting at alternative locations to a polling station (voting hubs);
  (e) voting on additional days to the main polling day.

(5) The Electoral Commission must report publicly on the regulations and whether they have met the objective in subsection (3)."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment gives the Secretary of State the power to pilot flexible voting options.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Offence of controlling or interfering with the independent exercise of the franchise

(1) A person (person A) commits an offence if, without lawful authority and with the intention to impede or prevent the free exercise of another person's (person B) franchise, person A—
  (a) deliberately conceals, retains or withholds that person B's postal voting documents without their consent,
  (b) uses coercion to require person B to complete a ballot paper in the presence of another person,
  (c) demands proof of how person B voted, or intends to vote, by threatening to withdraw accommodation, employment, care, financial support or another service, or
  (d) deliberately prevents person B from marking a ballot paper privately and independently.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), coercion includes the deliberate abuse of a position of trust, authority or dependency with the intention of overcoming the free electoral choice of person B.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to lawful assistance freely requested by an elector and provided in accordance with the law governing the election.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is guilty of a corrupt practice under section 168 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (prosecutions for corrupt practices).

(5) It is not necessary to prove that the conduct altered how the elector voted, or that the elector disclosed how they voted."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause seeks to create a defined and targeted definition of corrupt practice of controlling another person's vote. This includes withholding postal voting documents or demanding proof of voting choices, while safeguarding lawful assistance requested by electors, and is intended to supplement the existing offences of undue-influence.

LORD FROST

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Overseas voting: White Paper and draft legislation

(1) The Secretary of State must review the merits, feasibility and cost-effectiveness of enabling overseas electors to vote at parliamentary elections, including by-elections, at or through United Kingdom embassies, high commissions and consulates, and the most effective means of doing so.

(2) The review must also consider the feasibility of enabling a person registered to vote by post at a parliamentary election, who applied to do so because they would be outside the United Kingdom on polling day, to vote at or through a United Kingdom embassy, high commission or consulate in the country in which they are present.

(3) In conducting the review, the Secretary of State must—
  (a) examine arrangements used by other countries, including the timing of voting, the transmission and counting of votes and the treatment of votes received after polling day,
  (b) consider geographical coverage, accessibility, cost, staffing, security, ballot secrecy, prevention of double voting and any consent required from receiving States, and
  (c) consult the Electoral Commission, the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland, persons representing electoral registration officers and returning officers in Great Britain, and persons representing overseas electors.

(4) Before the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must—

(a) publish and lay before both Houses of Parliament a White Paper setting out the conclusions of the review and the Government's proposals concerning such voting arrangements, and

(b) where those proposals require legislation, publish draft legislation, for consultation, to give effect to them.

(5) The White Paper must give reasons for the Government's proposals, if any, including an assessment of the likely benefits and costs.

(6) Where the White Paper proposes establishing such voting arrangements, it must specify the arrangements proposed, their geographical coverage, the resources required and a timetable for implementation.

(7) In this section, "overseas elector" means a person registered in a register of parliamentary electors pursuant to an overseas elector's declaration under RPA 1985."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment and another in the name of Lord Frost require a review of voting through British diplomatic and consular posts, including for postal voters who will be abroad on polling day, and a White Paper within 12 months with draft legislation for consultation where required. The consequential amendment brings the review and publication duties into force on Royal Assent.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Voting machine pilot schemes

(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make provision for pilot schemes under which voting machines are used for the recording of votes at polling stations at relevant elections in specified areas.

(2) In this section, "relevant election" means—

(a) a local government election in England;

(b) a parliamentary general election.

(3) Regulations under subsection (1) may modify the conduct rules applying to a relevant election, to the extent necessary for the purposes of a pilot scheme.

(4) A pilot scheme—

(a) may not apply in more than five local authority areas at any one set of local elections;

(b) may not apply in more than three parliamentary constituencies at a general election;

(c) may not apply in any area unless the relevant returning officer and local authority have consented in writing;

(d) must not alter who is entitled to vote.

(5) A voting machine may be used in a pilot scheme only if—

(a) it has been certified by the Electoral Commission as meeting standards on security, accessibility, and secrecy of the ballot,
(b) it is not connected to the internet or any external network while in use,
(c) it produces a voter-verifiable paper record of each vote cast, and
(d) paper records are retained and used for a statutory post-election audit by sample count.

(6) Regulations under this section may not be made unless the Secretary of State has consulted the Electoral Commission, the Electoral Management Board for Scotland (where relevant) and representatives of returning officers.

(7) 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.

(8) The Electoral Commission must, within six months of each pilot election, publish and lay before Parliament a report evaluating the pilot, covering—
(a) accuracy and speed of results,
(b) accessibility for disabled voters,
(c) voter confidence,
(d) security incidents, and
(e) cost.

(9) The power to make regulations under this section expires five years after the day on which this Act is passed.

(10) In this section, "voting machine" means a device used by an elector in a polling station to record their vote electronically, and does not include any means of voting remotely."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would allow a small number of supervised pilots of voting machines at local and general elections, with a paper audit trail, independent certification, and an evaluation report to Parliament before any wider rollout.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Review of undue influence offences

(1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, and at intervals of no more than five years afterwards, review the operation and effectiveness of—
(a) section 114A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (undue influence), in particular section 114A(4)(e) (spiritual injury and undue spiritual pressure), and
(b) section 115 of that Act, insofar as it continues to apply.

(2) A review under subsection (1) must consider—

(a) the number and outcome of prosecutions, election petitions and investigations relying on those provisions;

(b) whether the provisions are sufficiently clear to candidates, campaigners, religious leaders and voters;

(c) whether the provisions are compatible with freedom of religion and expression under Articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights;

(d) whether the provisions should be retained, amended or repealed.

(3) In carrying out a review, the Secretary of State must consult the Electoral Commission, the Law Commission, the Crown Prosecution Service, the police, and representatives of faith communities.

(4) The Secretary of State must lay a report of each review before Parliament within three months of its completion."

Member's explanatory statement
This clause requires Ministers to review the "spiritual injury" provisions regularly. The Pickles Report recommended that the offence retain a reference to spiritual or religious influence.

LORD HAYWARD

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Polling day report

(1) Returning officers must require presiding officers to submit a report when an election official or a police officer has had to intervene in the normal running of a relevant election at a polling station.

(2) An intervention under subsection (1) includes possible or attempted breaches of ballot secrecy and voter harassment.

(3) Under this section "relevant election" means a parliamentary or local government election."

LORD HAYWARD

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Political party polling station passes

(1) The Electoral Commission must by regulations made by statutory instrument provide for a scheme for the issuance of polling station passes by the relevant local authority to contesting political parties.

(2) The scheme under subsection (1) only applies to polling stations that the Electoral Commission has designated as stations with a high risk of voter harassment outside the station by tellers.

(3) A contesting political party may apply for a polling station pass for each designated polling station that they intend to send tellers to.

(4) One polling station pass may be issued per contesting political party in respect of a designated polling station.

(5) A polling station pass allows one teller from a contesting political party at a time to be present outside of the polling station on the day of an election at that polling station, with the exception of the provision in subsection (6).

(6) A polling station pass may be transferred between tellers of the same political party on the day of an election.

(7) 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.

(8) In this section "contesting political party" means those parties and individuals whose nominations have been accepted at an election."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to introduce a scheme where a political party may have one teller only outside a polling station. It seeks to prevent voter harassment outside of a polling station.

LORD ELLIOTT OF BALLINAMALLARD

★ After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause—

"Appointment of polling and counting agents

In Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 (parliamentary elections rules), as it relates to Northern Ireland, omit rule 30 (appointment of polling and counting agents)."

Clause 55

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

Clause 55, page 66, leave out lines 26 to 39 and insert—

"(6) A public notice given under subsection (3) must not give the home address of an election agent.

(7) Where the address declared under subsection (3) is, or is at, the election agent's home, the declaration must also state a correspondence address for the agent which may be an email address or other digital address, provided such an email address or other digital address is regularly monitored by the election agent.

(8) Nothing in subsections (6) to (7)—
(a) affects the duty under subsection (3) to declare the name and address of the election agent to the appropriate officer, or
(b) affects the validity of the service of any claim, notice, writ, summons or other document at an address so declared."

Member's explanatory statement
This new amendment ensures agents' home addresses are confidential by default with correspondence addresses the default and emails permitted.

After Clause 55

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
BARONESS THORNHILL
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

After Clause 55, insert the following new Clause—

"Removal of requirement to publish candidates' addresses

(1) Schedule 1 to RPA 1983 is amended as set out in subsections (2) and (3).

(2) In rule 6 (nomination of candidates), omit paragraphs (5) and (6).

(3) In rule 14 (publication of statement of persons nominated)—

(a) for paragraph (2) substitute—

"(2) For each person who has been nominated, the statement shall show—

(a) the name,

(b) where the candidate's home address is in the United Kingdom, the constituency or the relevant area within which that address is situated,

(c) where the candidate's home address is outside the United Kingdom, the country within which that address is situated, and

(d) the names of the persons subscribing those papers.";

(b) after paragraph (2) insert—

"(2ZA) In paragraph (2), "relevant area" means—

(a) in relation to a home address in England—

(i) if the address is within a district for which there is a district council, that district;

(ii) if the address is within a county in which there are no districts with councils, that county;

(iii) if the address is within a London borough, that London borough;

(iv) if the address is within the City of London (including the Inner and Middle Temples), the City of London;

(v) if the address is within the Isles of Scilly, the Isles of Scilly;

(b) in relation to a home address in Wales—

(i) if the address is within a county, that county;

(ii) if the address is within a county borough, that county borough;

(c) in relation to a home address in Scotland, the local government area in which the address is situated;

(d) in relation to a home address in Northern Ireland, the local government district in which the address is situated.";

(c) omit paragraph (3A).

(4) In rule 14A (correction of minor errors), omit subparagraph (2)(c)."

Member's explanatory statement
This clause would remove the requirement for candidates' addresses to be published, replacing it with a statement of the location.

BARONESS LEAMAN
LORD PACK

After Clause 55 insert the following new Clause—

"Election agents: disability-related spending

Paragraph 7A of Schedule 4A to RPA 1983 (candidate's disability) is amended as follows—

(a) in sub-paragraph (1) after "candidate's" insert "or their election agent's";

(b) in sub-paragraph (2)(a) after "Scotland" insert "or their election agent";

(c) in sub-paragraph (2)(b) after "Northern Ireland" insert "or their election agent"."

Member's explanatory statement
Reasonable expenses in relation to a candidate's disability is currently excluded from election expenses. This amendment extends this exclusion to include disability-related costs incurred by election agents.

After Clause 59

LORD PACK

After Clause 59, insert the following new Clause—

"Annual spending limits

In Schedule 9 to PPERA (limits on campaign expenditure), leave out paragraph 3(7) and insert—

"(7) For the purposes of this paragraph the relevant period is each calendar year.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment provides for an annual expenditure limit for political parties.

BARONESS PINNOCK

★ After Clause 59, insert the following new Clause—

"Limitation of election expenses: local government elections

After Section 76(2) to RPA 1983 (limitation of election expenses)—

"(2ZA) The Secretary of State may by regulations prescribe a limit on the expenditure that promotes a political party without referencing the local election area or candidate.""

Member's explanatory statement
This probing amendment intends to limit the amount of money that can be spent in local elections promoting a national party without reference to the local candidate or local area.

Clause 61

BARONESS MORGAN OF COTES

Clause 61, page 70, line 35, at end insert—

"55B Cryptoassets moratorium

(1) The following provisions have effect for the purposes of this Part.

(2) The Secretary of State must, before the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which section 55A comes into force, and subsequently at intervals of not more than 12 months for as long as section 55A remains in force, review the operation and effect of such provisions.

(3) Following a review under subsection (2), the Secretary of State must, after having consulted the Commission, consider whether the conditions in subsection (6) have been met and whether an order under subsection (5) should be made.

(4) The Secretary of State must publish a report of the review and lay a copy of that report before each House of Parliament.

(5) The Secretary of State may by order, repeal or amend section 55A and such other sections of this Act as are required so as to permit donations made by a permissible donor using cryptoassets or using particular categories of cryptoasset, but an order under this subsection may not be made unless—

(a) the Commission has issued guidance approved by the Secretary of State on the application of this Act to donations consisting of or made by means of cryptoassets (in particular as to the steps necessary for a political party to be satisfied of the identity of the donor of a cryptoasset donation and the valuation of that donation), and

(b) the conditions at subsection (6) have been met.

(6) The conditions referred to at subsection (5)(b) are that—

(a) the guidance under subsection (5)(a) and the regulatory framework for cryptoasset providers and transactions in the United Kingdom, including identity verification and traceability requirements, adequately mitigates the risks that led to enactment of section 55A;

(b) the Commission has certified in such form as it considers appropriate that it is satisfied that the condition in paragraph (a) is met and it has the powers, capacity and operational frameworks to enforce its guidance and a copy of that certificate has been laid before each House of Parliament.

(7) An order under subsection (5) must be made by statutory instrument and is not to be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House.

(8) The Commission may from time-to-time update and, or replace the guidance at subsection (5)(a) as it considers necessary for the conditions at subsection (6) to continue to be met."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the Secretary of State to review the operation and effect of section 55A and consider whether to exercise a power, when certain conditions are met, to amend the PPERA 2000 by order to permit donations by a permissible donor made using cryptoassets or particular categories of cryptoasset.

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

LORD HAYWARD

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

"(da) whether the donation is associated with voting intention and campaigning polls, and"

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.

LORD PACK

Clause 65, page 95, line 20, after "party" insert ", any other party, any regulated donee (within the meaning of Schedule 7) or any candidate (see Schedule 2A to the Representation of the People Act 1983)"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would ensure that the amount a company or limited liability partnership can donate to a party must take into account any donations it has already made to other parties, regulated donees (which includes members of parties, members associations and holders of elective offices) or electoral candidates.

LORD PACK

Clause 65, page 95, line 34, after "party" insert ", any other party, any regulated donee (within the meaning of Schedule 7) or any candidate (see Schedule 2A to the Representation of the People Act 1983)"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would ensure that the amount a company or limited liability partnership can donate to a party must take into account any donations it has already made to other parties, regulated donees (which includes members of parties, members associations and holders of elective offices) or electoral candidates.

After Clause 65

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH
LORD FROST

After Clause 65, insert the following new Clause—

"Donations by trade unions: member support requirement

(1) PPERA 2000 is amended as follows.

(2) After section 54 (permissible donors) insert—

"54ZA Donations by trade unions

(1) This section applies to a donation by a trade union to a registered party or other recipient to which this Part applies where the value of that donation, together with all other donations made in the same calendar year by that trade union or any connected trade union to the same recipient, exceeds £10,000.

(2) The trade union is to be treated as not being a permissible donor in relation to a donation to which this section applies, unless the member support condition is met at the time the donation is made.

(3) The member support condition is met if, within the previous two years, a ballot of the trade union's paid-up membership has been held in accordance with subsection (4) in which at least 25% of the paid-up membership voted in favour of the trade union making donations to that recipient up to a stated maximum amount.

(4) A ballot satisfies this subsection if—

(a) every paid-up member was entitled to vote,

(b) the vote was secret and conducted by post or secure electronic means,

(c) it was supervised by an independent scrutineer, and

(d) the question put identified the recipient and the maximum amount to be donated.

(5) In this section "paid-up membership" means those members of the trade union on the day of the ballot whose subscriptions are paid in full at that date.

(6) Within 28 days of the result being declared, the trade union must send the scrutineer's report to the Electoral Commission and the Certification Officer.

(7) Payments made to a registered party through a political fund, a subsidiary body, or any person acting on the trade union's behalf count as donations by the trade union, and affiliation fees paid to a registered party count as donations for the purposes of this section.

(8) Donations divided to avoid the £10,000 threshold are to be aggregated.

(9) "Trade union" has the meaning given by section 1 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

(10) The Secretary of State may by order make further provision about the conduct of ballots, the appointment of scrutineers and record-keeping.

(11) This section does not apply to donations made before this section comes into force."

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

"(ba) section 54ZA (donations by trade unions),"."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Clause would require a trade union to show the support of at least a quarter of its paid-up members in a ballot before donating more than £10,000 in a calendar year to the same registered party recipient. Donations made without that support would be impermissible, so the existing rules on forfeiture and offences would apply.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 65, insert the following new Clause—

"Campaign assistance by trade unions treated as donations

(1) PPERA 2000 is amended as follows.

(2) In section 50 (donations for the purposes of Part 4), after subsection (2) insert—

"(2A) For the purposes of this Part, campaign assistance provided by a trade union to a registered party is a donation to that party by the trade union, whether or not it is provided in place of a gift of money.

(2B) In subsection (2A) "campaign assistance" means the provision, otherwise than on commercial terms, of services or facilities for the use or benefit of the party in connection with campaigning, including—

(a) the time of employees, officials or representatives of the union who are paid by, or released from other duties by, the union,

(b) canvassing, telephone banking, leafleting, voter registration and turnout activity organised or directed by the union,

(c) the use of premises, equipment, membership data or communications channels, and

(d) the production or distribution of campaign material.

(2C) Subsections (2A) and (2B) apply whether the assistance is provided directly or through a third person."

(3) In section 52 (payments, services etc. not to be regarded as donations) at the end of subsection (1)(g) insert ", but this paragraph does not apply to services provided by a person as an employee, official or representative of a trade union, or in activity organised or directed by a trade union".

(4) In section 53 (value of donations), after subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) The value of campaign assistance within section 50(2A) is the greater of its market value and the cost to the trade union of providing it, including remuneration, employer's costs, travel and materials."

(5) In this section "trade union" has the meaning given by section 1 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (meaning of "trade union")."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause makes clear that campaign assistance in kind from a trade union is a donation, valued and reported like a cash donation, so the same transparency applies however support is given.

LORD BAILEY OF PADDINGTON

After Clause 65, insert the following new Clause—

"Trade union donations funded by members who have opted in

(1) PPERA 2000 is amended as follows.

(2) After section 54 (permissible donors) insert—

"54A Trade union donations: requirement for member consent

(1) A registered party, recognised third party, regulated donee or permitted participant must not accept a relevant donation from a trade union unless the donation is funded solely by contributions from members who have given express consent to contribute to the union's political fund.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a member has given express consent only if the member has taken a separate, affirmative step to agree to make contributions to the political fund.

(3) Consent must not be inferred from—
(a) a member's silence or failure to respond to a request for consent,
(b) continued membership of the trade union, or
(c) the payment of a general trade union subscription, unless the member has separately and expressly agreed that a specified part of that subscription is to be paid into the political fund.

(4) A donation is not eligible for acceptance under subsection (1) unless the trade union has given the recipient a certificate stating that the donation is funded in accordance with that subsection.

(5) A trade union giving a certificate under subsection (4) must retain records sufficient to demonstrate the basis on which the certificate was given and provide those records to the Electoral Commission on request.

(6) The Electoral Commission may issue guidance about the form of a certificate and the records required under subsection (5).

(7) A donation accepted in breach of this section is to be treated for the purposes of this Part as a donation from an impermissible donor.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would prevent political parties and other regulated recipients from accepting donations from trade unions unless the union certifies that the money came from members who expressly opted in to contributing to the political fund.

LORD LEIGH OF HURLEY

After Clause 65, insert the following new Clause—

"Donations by trade unions to political parties: annual report requirement

After section 54 of PPERA 2000 (permissible donors) insert—

"54ZA Donations by trade unions: annual report requirement

(1) This section applies to a donation by a trade union to a registered party to which this Part applies.

(2) A trade union is to be treated as not being a permissible donor in relation to a donation to which this section applies, unless details of that donation are included in an annual report by the trade union for the year in which the donation was made.

(3) Details of a donation that must be included in an annual report are—
(a) the donation amount, and
(b) the donation recipient.""

LORD LEIGH OF HURLEY

After Clause 65, insert the following new Clause—

"Donations by trade unions to candidates: annual report requirement

After section 54 of PPERA 2000 (permissible donors) insert—

"54ZA Donations by trade unions to candidates: annual report requirement

(1) This section applies to a donation by a trade union to a registered candidate to which this Part applies.

(2) The trade union is to be treated as not being a permissible donor in relation to a donation to which this section applies, unless details of that donation are included in an annual report by the trade union for the year in which the donation was made.

(3) Details of a donation that must be included in an annual report are—
(a) the donation amount, and
(b) the donation recipient.""

Clause 66

LORD PITKEATHLEY OF CAMDEN TOWN
BARONESS SCOTT OF NEEDHAM MARKET
BARONESS FINLAY OF LLANDAFF
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN

Clause 66, page 102, line 41, leave out paragraph (b)

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is intended to draw attention to the DPRRC's recommendation concerning tertiary legislation contained in Clause 66 of the bill in their 12th report.

After Clause 71

BARONESS HAYTER OF KENTISH TOWN
LORD PACK

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 FROST

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Pack to After Clause 71

★ In subsection (2), after inserted sub-paragraph (3), insert—

"(4) A declaration under sub-paragraph (1) must also state whether the person has received in the past or is currently in receipt of any income or gifts from—

(a) any international organisation whose members include two or more states or the governments of two or more states, or

(b) any institution, organ, office, agency or subsidiary body of an organisation mentioned in paragraph (a)."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would extend the declaration required of candidates to cover income or gifts from international organisations whose members include states or their governments, including the United Nations and the European Union, and from their institutions, organs, offices, agencies and subsidiary bodies.

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 YOUNG OF ACTON

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Lord Pack to after Clause 71

In inserted paragraph 6C, in sub-paragraph (1), leave out "A regulated donee" and insert "The holder of a relevant elective office"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to confine the prohibition on payments for social media activity to holders of relevant elective office. It would exclude members of registered parties and members associations, so that the clause does not prevent ordinary party members from being paid for online journalism, blogging, podcasting or video content.

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
LORD PACK

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.

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE
LORD PACK

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Third-party campaigning

Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament on proposals to revise and simplify the regulation of third-party campaigning."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the Secretary of State to lay a report before Parliament to revise and simplify the regulation of third-party campaigning.

LORD PACK

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Variation of specified sums or percentages: changes in the value of money

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

(2) After subsection (1A) insert—

"(1B) In each financial year the Secretary of State must make an order under subsection (1) in relation to sums relating to campaign expenditure, pursuant to section 79 and Schedule 9, to reflect changes in the value of money, by reference to the Consumer Price Index for the month of September in that financial year.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment requires the Secretary of State to annually increase sums relating to campaign expenditure to reflect changes of the value of money.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Review of donations from UK-based mega-donors

(1) The Secretary of State must, within one month of the day on which this Act is passed, establish a cross-departmental task and finish team (the "Team") to review the influence of large donations made by donors based in the United Kingdom to political parties.

(2) The Team must examine and make recommendations on—

(a) how a "mega-donor" should be defined for the purposes of regulation, including by reference to the size, frequency and aggregate value of donations made by a donor and by persons connected with that donor,

(b) whether, and at what level, a cap should be imposed on the total value of donations that a person may make in a calendar year to a political party, regulated donee or recognised third party,

(c) how any cap should apply to donations made through companies, trusts, unincorporated associations, trade unions, loans, non-cash donations and donations in cryptoassets, so that it cannot be avoided through connected persons or intermediaries,

(d) the effect of any cap on the funding of political parties,

(e) the enforcement and oversight of any new restrictions on large donations, including the role and powers of the Electoral Commission, and

(f) how any proposed measures could be implemented in time to take effect before the next general election.

(3) The Team may consult the Electoral Commission, the Ethics and Integrity Commission, registered political parties and any other such persons as it considers appropriate.

(4) The Team must be chaired by the Minister responsible for democracy and include representatives of—

(a) the Cabinet Office,

(b) the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government,

(c) His Majesty's Treasury, and

(d) such other departments as may be appropriate.

(5) The Team must report to the Secretary of State within six months of the day on which it is established.

(6) The Secretary of State must lay the report before Parliament within 14 days of receiving it.

(7) The Secretary of State must, within two months of laying the report, lay before Parliament a statement setting out the Government's response, including whether it intends to bring forward legislation to give effect to the Team's recommendations and, if so, when."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is intended to probe the remit and membership of the task and finish group announced in the House of Commons on 2 September 2026 and its timeline for carrying out and concluding its work.

LORD PACK

★ After Clause 71, insert the following new Clause—

"Publication of donations to candidates

In section 71A of RPA 1983 (control of donations to candidates), after subsection (3) insert—

"(3A) In respect of every candidate at an election the Electoral Commission must collect a statement of donations made to the candidate or his election agent which complies with the requirements of paragraphs 11 and 12 of Schedule 2A to this Act from each appropriate officer and arrange for publication of that information.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment ensures that the Electoral Commission must collect and publish information in relation to donations made to candidates or their election agents.

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 PACK

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Information included with electronic campaigning material

In section 41 of the Elections Act 2022 (requirement to include information with electronic material), after subsection (3)(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 CLEMENT-JONES
LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL

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.

LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL
BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Electoral advertising code of practice

(1) The Electoral Commission must prepare and publish an electoral advertising code of practice ("the advertising code").

(2) The advertising code must include principles and guidance relating to electoral advertising and must in particular include provisions relating to—

(a) ensuring the accuracy of factual claims,

(b) the need for relevant and reliable evidence to substantiate factual claims,

(c) the need to clearly identify the political party affiliated with an advert,

(d) transparency in the use of artificial intelligence, and

(e) issuing prompt public corrections to address mistakes.

(3) In this section "electoral advertising" means any factual claims in marketing communications, whenever published or distributed, whose principal function is to influence voters in a local, regional, national or international election or referendum.

(4) Before preparing or revising the advertising code, the Electoral Commission must carry out such consultation as it considers appropriate and must in particular consult—

(a) the Electoral Advertising Code Committee,

(b) representatives of parties appointed to the Parliamentary Parties Panel in accordance with section 4 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, and

(c) such other persons as the Electoral Commission considers appropriate."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Electoral Commission to produce an electoral advertising code of practice and is linked to other amendments in the name of Lord Russell of Liverpool.

LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL
BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Electoral Advertising Code Committee

(1) The Electoral Commission must establish an Electoral Advertising Code Committee ("the Committee").

(2) The functions of the Committee are—

(a) to advise the Electoral Commission on the preparation and revision of the advertising code,

(b) to adjudicate on alleged breaches of the advertising code, and

(c) to oversee the operation of and monitor the effectiveness of the advertising code.

(3) In exercising functions under this Part, the Committee must have regard to the importance of freedom of political expression and open democratic debate, and will not determine matters of political opinion unless they fall within the scope of factual claims in electoral advertising.

(4) The Committee is to consist of—

(a) a Chair,

(b) a member nominated by the Electoral Commission,

(c) a member nominated by the Advertising Standards Authority or its successor body,

(d) a member nominated by the Office of Communications, and

(e) a member nominated by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority.

(5) Nothing in this Part limits the powers of the bodies identified in subsection (4) under any other enactment.

(6) The Chair is to be appointed by the Electoral Commission following a fair and open competition conducted in accordance with the governance code on public appointments, with a majority of independent members on the assessment panel and a senior independent panel member.

(7) The appointment of the Chair requires the consent of the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, which must not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(8) In making the appointment, the Electoral Commission must have regard to the need to secure the independence of the Committee.

(9) A person appointed as Chair holds office—

(a) for a single non-renewable term of five years from the date of appointment, and

(b) in accordance with terms and conditions (including as to remuneration and pension) specified by the Electoral Commission.

(10) The Chair may resign from office by giving written notice to the Electoral Commission.

(11) The Electoral Commission must pay to the Committee the sums determined by the Chair as appropriate for, or in connection with, the carrying out of the Committee's functions.

(12) The Secretary of State must, within the period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, carry out a consultation on a levy on registered political parties' election advertising spend for the purpose of funding the Electoral Advertising Code Committee.

(13) In carrying out the consultation, the Secretary of State must consult—

(a) the Electoral Commission,

(b) representatives of registered political parties, and

(c) such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Electoral Commission to establish an Electoral Advertising Code Committee and is linked to other amendments in the name of Lord Russell of Liverpool.

LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL
BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Enforcement of the advertising code

(1) The following persons, when engaged in electoral advertising, must comply with the advertising code—

(a) registered political parties,

(b) members of the House of Commons,

(c) members of any local authority in any part of the United Kingdom,

(d) members of the Greater London Assembly,

(e) candidates or prospective candidates at a United Kingdom general election, by-election, local authority election, Greater London Authority election or mayoral election,

(f) recognised third parties within the meaning of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, and

(g) election agents within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

(2) The Electoral Advertising Code Committee ("the Committee") may, by written notice, require a person to provide information or documents reasonably required for the purposes of investigating a suspected breach of the advertising code.

(3) A person must comply with a requirement under subsection (2) unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

(4) If, on an application by the Committee, a court is satisfied that a person has failed to comply with a requirement under subsection (2), the court may make an order requiring the person to provide the Committee with—

(a) information referred to in the notice, and

(b) other information which the court is satisfied the Committee requires.

(5) Where the Committee considers that electoral advertising is inconsistent with the advertising code, it may take the following steps which it considers reasonable to secure compliance—

(a) issuing a notice requiring the person responsible to amend, withdraw or substantiate the advertising within a specified period,

(b) publishing a formal finding of non-compliance on its website and in the repository of political adverts,

(c) requiring the publication of a correction, clarification or updated version of the advertising with similar prominence where practicable,

(d) notifying relevant online services or publishers and requesting prompt suspension or removal of advertising during the regulated period, and

(e) referring repeated or serious breaches to the Electoral Commission to impose civil sanctions in accordance with its statutory powers.

(6) In deciding whether to impose a civil sanction under subsection (5)(e), the Electoral Commission must have regard to—

(a) the findings and recommendations of the Committee, and

(b) any enforcement action taken in relation to the same conduct under any other enactment.

(7) Where the Electoral Commission imposes a civil sanction following a referral from the Committee, it must publish a notice setting out—

(a) the nature of the breach,

(b) the sanction imposed, and

(c) the reasons for the sanction.

(8) A person on whom a civil sanction is imposed under subsection (5)(e) may appeal in accordance with the appeal provisions under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

(9) Failure to comply with the advertising code does not of itself give rise to criminal liability."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause sets out the enforcement of the electoral advertising code of practice, established by another amendment in the name of Lord Russell of Liverpool.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Identification of printed election material

(1) The Representation of the People Act 1983 is amended as follows.

(2) In section 110 (details to appear on election publications)—

(a) after subsection (3)(c) insert—

"(d) where the material is published by or on behalf of a candidate, a unique identification number allocated by the candidate or election agent.";

(b) in subsection (6)(b), for "subsection (3)(b) and (c)" substitute "subsection (3)(b) to (d)".

(3) After section 110(6) insert—

"(6A) For the purposes of subsection (3)(d), each distinct item of printed election material published by or on behalf of a candidate must bear a separate identification number, but multiple copies of the same material may bear the same number."

(4) In section 81 (return as to election expenses), after subsection (2) insert—

"(2A) Where a return includes expenditure on printed election material bearing a unique identification number under section 110(3)(d), the return must record that number against the corresponding expenditure entry.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause is intended to require that all printed election material that is published by or on behalf of a candidate carries a unique identification number that corresponds to the entry that is made in the candidate's election expenses return. This is intended to improve transparency and accountability of election expenses.

LORD CLEMENT-JONES

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Political advertising libraries

After section 61 of the Elections Act 2022 insert—

"PART 6A

POLITICAL ADVERTISING LIBRARIES

61A Duty to maintain political advertising library

(1) A relevant provider must maintain a publicly accessible library of electronic material—

(a) to which section 41 applies by virtue of section 42 (paid-for electronic material), and

(b) which is published on or by means of an online service provided by the relevant provider to users in the United Kingdom.

(2) In relation to each item of electronic material, the library must include—

(a) a copy of the material, including its content and format;

(b) the name and address of the promoter and, where different, the person on whose behalf the material is published;

(c) the identity of the person or organisation that paid for the material to be published and, where applicable, information about any relevant controlling entity;

(d) the election, referendum, recall petition or other electoral process to which the material relates, where applicable;

(e) the date on which the material was first published and, once it ceases to be published, the date on which it was last published;

(f) the amount paid or payable for its publication;

(g) information about the intended targeting criteria and methods;

(h) aggregate information held by the provider about the audience to which the material was delivered, including its reach and engagement;

(i) a unique identifier for the material.

(3) A record of the material must be added to the library as soon as reasonably practicable after the material is first published and, in any event, within 72 hours of that publication.

(4) Information required by subsection (2) which becomes available after the record is added must be added within such period as may be prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State, and the record must otherwise be kept up to date in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State.

(5) The library must be—

(a) available to the public free of charge;
(b) searchable;
(c) available for download in a machine-readable format;
(d) available through an application programming interface or other equivalent means of automated access.

(6) Records must remain publicly available in the library for at least seven years after the material was last published.

(7) A relevant provider must, in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State, provide to the Keeper of Public Records a copy of the material and information required by this section for permanent preservation.

61B Relevant providers

(1) In this Part, "relevant provider" means the provider of an online service which—
(a) in the course of business sells or otherwise facilitates the publication of electronic material as advertisements to users in the United Kingdom, and
(b) meets such conditions or thresholds as may be prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State.

(2) In making regulations under subsection (1)(b), the Secretary of State must have regard to—
(a) the need to secure effective transparency in relation to paid-for electronic material, and
(b) the need for requirements imposed on providers to be proportionate to the size, reach and role of the service.

(3) Regulations may make different provision for different descriptions of service, including exemptions or modified requirements for smaller services.

(4) In this Part, "electronic material", "the promoter" and "publish" have the meanings given by section 39.

61C Regulations, guidance and enforcement

(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make further provision about—
(a) information to be included in a political advertising library, including information relating to payments and transactions;
(b) the form and manner in which information is to be made available, including technical standards for searchability, machine readability and automated access;
(c) the updating of records;
(d) the timing, form and manner of transfer of records to the Keeper of Public Records under section 61A(7).

(2) The Secretary of State must by regulations confer on the Electoral Commission appropriate powers to monitor and enforce compliance with section 61A.

(3) In exercising functions relating to enforcement under this Part, the Electoral Commission must have regard to—

(a) the need for enforcement to be effective, proportionate and dissuasive, and

(b) the desirability, except where the seriousness or deliberate nature of a failure justifies otherwise, of securing compliance through remedial action before imposing a financial penalty.

(4) The Electoral Commission must prepare and publish guidance for relevant providers about compliance with this Part.

(5) Before making regulations under this Part the Secretary of State must consult the Electoral Commission, the Office of Communications and the Information Commissioner.

(6) Section 60 applies to regulations under this Part as it applies to regulations under Part 6.""

LORD DOYLE

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Extension of the prohibition on political advertising to online audiovisual and audio services

(1) A provider of a relevant online audiovisual or audio service must not include, insert, display or cause to be played a political advertisement in connection with the provision of that service to users in the United Kingdom.

(2) For the purposes of this section—

"political advertisement" is an advertisement which exists for the purpose set out in section 43 of the Elections Act 2022 (purposes referred to in section 42);

"relevant online audiovisual or audio service" means a service provided wholly or partly by means of the internet which enables users to access audiovisual or audio content, whether live or on demand, including—

(a) a video-sharing or video-on-demand service,

(b) an audio streaming service,

(c) a radio selection service, or

(d) another service enabling the selection or reception of audiovisual or audio content through internet-connected equipment.

(3) The prohibition applies irrespective of whether the advertisement is presented before, during or after the content, or is inserted or selected by the provider of the service or another person.

(4) The Office of Communications must make arrangements for monitoring and enforcing compliance with this section."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to extend the prohibition on political advertising on television and radio to new media such as YouTube and smart speakers.

BARONESS HAZARIKA

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Information to be included with electronic material: data provenance

After section 41 (requirement to include information with electronic material) of the Elections Act 2022 insert—

"41A Requirement to include information with electronic material created through generative artificial intelligence

(1) This section applies to electronic material which—
  (a) meets the conditions in section 42 (paid for electronic material), or
  (b) meets the conditions in section 44 (other electronic material), and has been generated wholly through generative artificial intelligence.

(2) Electronic material to which this section applies must not be published unless it includes the following information—
  (a) a statement that content was wholly generated by a generative artificial intelligence system;
  (b) the name of the system used to generate the content.

(3) The Secretary of State may, by regulations made by statutory instrument, specify—
  (a) additional requirements for information to be required under subsection (2);
  (b) the form in which the information required under subsection (2) is to be provided.

(4) The form prescribed by regulations under subsection (3)(b) must be a form which can be detected and processed by regulated user-to-user services for the purpose of providing the required information to users of such services.

(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.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "generative artificial intelligence" means computer system or software that—
  (a) is capable of producing text, images, audio, video, or other content autonomously, wholly or substantially, based on prompts or instructions provided by a user,

(b) uses machine learning or other algorithmic techniques to generate content that mimics human-created material, and

(c) may produce content that is not pre-existing but is synthesised based on patterns learned from existing data.""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause requires campaign material which has been generated by generative artificial intelligence to include a statement to that effect along with the name of the system used. It creates a power for the Government to make regulations about the information to be included.

BARONESS HAZARIKA

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Repository of digital political advertising

After section 61 of the Elections Act 2022 insert—

"PART 6A

REPOSITORY OF DIGITAL POLITICAL ADVERTISING

61A Establishing a repository of digital political advertising

(1) The Secretary of State must, by regulations made by statutory instrument, make provision to require the Electoral Commission to establish a repository of paid-for digital political advertising.

(2) Any regulations made under subsection (1) must—

(a) provide for the repository of political advertising to be publicly accessible,

(b) specify that a provider of a Category 1 service within the meaning of the Online Safety Act 2023 must ensure that prescribed information relating to such advertising is submitted to the repository as soon as reasonably practicable, and, in any event, within 72 hours,

(c) set out the types of information to be prescribed, and

(d) provide for material in the repository to be transferred to the National Archives for preservation after a certain period.

(3) Before making any regulations that make provision for the matters under subsection 2(c), the Secretary of State must consult—

(a) the Electoral Commission,

(b) the Information Commissioner's Office, and

(c) Ofcom.

(4) 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 requires the Secretary of State to bring forward regulations to require the Electoral Commission to establish a publicly available repository of political advertising.

LORD LEIGH OF HURLEY

★ After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Translation of campaign materials

(1) During the relevant period campaign material which is promoted or published in a foreign language must be translated to a native language of the British Islands.

(2) A translation under subsection (1) must be approved to be accurate by the relevant election agent.

(3) A person is guilty of an offence if the person causes campaign material to be promoted or published and such material has not been translated to a native language as under subsection (1).

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (3) 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 require election materials which are published in a foreign language by political parties and candidates to be translated into a native language of the British Islands.

LORD LANSLEY

★ After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Political advertising in general election periods

(1) The Communications Act 2003 is amended as follows.

(2) After section 368HD (lists of Tier 1 providers), insert—

"368HDA Political advertising on Tier 1 services during a parliamentary general election period

(1) The provider of a Tier 1 service must ensure that, during a parliamentary general election period, no advertisement to which subsection (2) applies is included in the service for viewing by members of the public in the United Kingdom.

(2) This subsection applies to an advertisement which is—

(a) inserted by or on behalf of a body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature, or

(b) directed towards a political end.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), section 321(3) applies in determining whether objects are of a political nature or an advertisement is directed towards a political end.

(4) This section does not prohibit an advertisement of a public service nature inserted by or on behalf of a government department.

(5) In this section "parliamentary general election period" means the period beginning with the dissolution of Parliament for the purposes of a parliamentary general election and ending with the close of the poll at that election.

(6) OFCOM must prepare and publish guidance on compliance with this section, and must consult the Electoral Commission before publishing or materially revising that guidance."

(3) In section 368HE (application etc of Chapter 2 to certain Tier 1 services), after subsection (2)(g) insert—

"(h) section 368HDA (political advertising on Tier 1 services during a parliamentary general election period).""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would prohibit Tier 1 services from airing political advertising during a Parliamentary general election period.

BARONESS HAZARIKA

★ After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

"Electoral Commission: powers to obtain information outside of a formal investigation

After section 19 of the Elections Act 2022 (criminal proceedings), insert—

"Powers to obtain information outside of a formal investigation

19A Electoral Commission: powers to obtain information outside of a formal investigation

(1) The Secretary of State must, by regulations made by statutory instrument, make provision to allow the Electoral Commission to issue a notice requiring certain information from a regulated user-to-user service or search service, at any time during any regulated election period.

(2) Any regulations made under this section must specify that a person to whom a notice is given under this paragraph must comply with it within such reasonable time as is specified in the notice.

(3) Any regulations made under this section must specify the information which may be requested by the Electoral Commission, and include the following where they relate to elections—

(a) information relating to paid-for political advertising,
(b) algorithmic systems,
(c) coordinated inauthentic behaviour, and
(d) automated or bot accounts (whether domestic or foreign).

(4) Any regulations made under this section must also provide for any safeguards considered necessary by the Secretary of State as regards data protection or commercial confidentiality.

(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.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "user-to-user service" has the meaning given by section 3 of the Online Safety Act 2023 ("user-to-user service" and "search service")."""

Schedule 17

LORD PACK
BARONESS PINNOCK

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.

Parliamentary Elections (Ireland) Act 1823

17 The Parliamentary Elections (Ireland) Act 1823 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
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

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.

LORD HAYWARD

After Clause 79, insert the following new Clause—

"Electoral Commission approval of election policing plans

(1) This section applies when the Electoral Commission assesses that an upcoming relevant election has a high risk, in an individual constituency, ward or area, of—
  (a) hostility towards candidates;
  (b) voter harassment.

(2) In an election to which subsection (1) applies, The Electoral Commission must ask the local police force to produce an election policing plan which must include details of an agreed designated area around a polling station for the purpose of preventing the harassment of voters outside polling stations.

(3) The Electoral Commission must review and approve an election policing plan produced by the local police force under subsection (2).

(4) In this section "relevant election" means a parliamentary or local government election."

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
LORD MENDELSOHN

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
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

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 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.

LORD PACK
LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 84, 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.

THE EARL OF KINNOULL
LORD PACK

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.

THE EARL OF KINNOULL

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Commencement of section 9(2) of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009

(1) By 1 July 2027, the Secretary of State must exercise the power in section 43(1) of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 to bring into force section 9(2) of that Act (declaration as to source of donation).

(2) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed (and section 90 is to be construed accordingly)."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment was originally tabled in the House of Commons but was not discussed. This new clause requires the Secretary of State to exercise the power to commence section 9(2) of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 which inserts section 54A into the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, which requires declarations to be provided as to the source of donations.

LORD CLEMENT-JONES

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Systemic risks affecting electoral processes and democratic participation

(1) The Online Safety Act 2023 is amended as follows.

(2) In Part 3, after Chapter 5 insert—

"CHAPTER 5A

SYSTEMIC RISK AFFECTING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

40A Duty to assess systemic risks

(1) A provider of a Category 1 service or Category 2A service must carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment of the reasonably foreseeable systemic risks arising from the design, operation or use of the service, including foreseeable misuse, which may have a significant adverse effect in the United Kingdom on—
  (a) the integrity of election processes, or
  (b) the ability of eligible voters to access reliable information relating to elections.

(2) In carrying out an assessment under subsection (1), the provider must have regard, in particular, to—
  (a) the likelihood and severity of the adverse effect,
  (b) the extent to which the design or operation of the service contributes to the risk,
  (c) the design and operation of recommender, ranking, search, advertising and monetisation systems,
  (d) functionalities affecting the generation, selection, presentation, dissemination or amplification of information,
  (e) foreseeable coordinated or automated manipulation of the service,
  (f) in the case of a search service, the risk of materially inaccurate or outdated information about electoral registration, voter identification, eligibility or polling arrangements being presented to users,
  (g) relevant evidence, including independent evidence where reasonably available, and
  (h) any material uncertainty affecting the assessment.

(3) Political disagreement, criticism of institutions, declining trust in an institution or differences in the reach of political viewpoints do not, of themselves, constitute a systemic risk for the purposes of this section.

(4) A provider must carry out or review an assessment under this section—

(a) at least once in every period of 12 months,

(b) before making a significant change to the design or operation of the service which is reasonably likely materially to affect a systemic risk,

(c) where new evidence reasonably indicates that a systemic risk may have materially changed, and

(d) sufficiently in advance of an election or referendum where the provider reasonably considers that the event may materially affect a systemic risk.

(5) A provider must make and keep a written record of each assessment.

(6) In this section "election processes" means processes for the registration of voters, arrangements for voting, and arrangements for the counting of votes.

40B Duty to mitigate and evaluate systemic risks

(1) A provider must take reasonable, proportionate and effective measures, having regard to its most recent assessment under section 40A, to mitigate and manage systemic risks identified in that assessment.

(2) The provider must—

(a) keep the effectiveness of those measures under review;

(b) consider appropriate evidence about their effectiveness and any material unintended effects; and

(c) take further or different reasonable and proportionate measures where that evidence shows that an identified systemic risk remains inadequately mitigated.

(3) In complying with this section, a provider must have particular regard to—

(a) freedom of expression within the law,

(b) privacy,

(c) access to information,

(d) non-discrimination, and

(e) media freedom and pluralism.

(4) Nothing in this Chapter requires a provider or Ofcom—

(a) to determine the truth or accuracy of an individual item of lawful content,

(b) to restrict lawful content solely because of the political viewpoint or opinion expressed in it, or

(c) to secure a particular political or electoral outcome.

(5) A provider must make and keep a written record of the measures taken under this section, the evidence considered in evaluating their effectiveness and any further action taken as a result.

(6) A provider is to be treated as complying with subsection (1) if the provider takes or uses the measures described in a code of practice under section 41 which are recommended for the purpose of compliance with that subsection.

(7) Compliance with subsection (1) by virtue of subsection (6) does not relieve a provider of its duties under subsection (2)."

(3) In section 41 (codes of practice about duties), after subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) Ofcom must prepare and issue a code of practice for providers of Category 1 services and Category 2A services describing measures recommended for the purpose of compliance with section 40B(1).

(4B) In preparing a code under subsection (4A), Ofcom must consult the Electoral Commission."

(4) In paragraph 10(4) of Schedule 4 (content of codes of practice), after paragraph (h) insert—

"(i) section 40B(1) (mitigation of systemic risks affecting election processes)."

(5) In the table in section 131(2) (requirements enforceable by Ofcom against providers of regulated services), after the entry for section 39 insert—

"Section 40A	Assessment of systemic risks affecting election processes
Section 40B	Mitigation and evaluation of systemic risks affecting election processes".

(6) Ofcom must submit the first draft code of practice under section 41(4A) to the Secretary of State under section 43(1) within 12 months beginning with the day on which this section comes into force.

(7) Sections 40A and 40B apply from the day on which the first code of practice under section 41(4A) comes into force."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require Category 1 platforms and Category 2A search services to assess systemic risks arising from their services which may significantly affect election processes or access to election information, take reasonable, proportionate and effective measures to address identified risks, and evaluate whether those measures are effective. OFCOM would be required to prepare a code of practice.

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE
LORD CLEMENT-JONES

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Governance, oversight and reporting in relation to democratic defence units

(1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, publish and lay before Parliament a statement setting out the operational remit, governance arrangements and democratic safeguards for each relevant unit in relation to regulated election periods.

(2) A statement under subsection (1) must set out formal protocols for inter-agency coordination, information-sharing and joint threat assessments between the relevant units, the Electoral Commission and OFCOM in relation to regulated election periods.

(3) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, establish and lay before Parliament a critical election incident public protocol setting out the procedures and threshold criteria by which an independent panel of senior public officials may issue public warnings or notifications regarding severe, verified foreign state interference or systemic disinformation during a regulated election period.

(4) The Secretary of State must prepare a report in respect of each reporting period detailing—

(a) the nature and scale of foreign state interference and foreign-funded disinformation campaigns targeting elections in the United Kingdom,

(b) the actions taken by the relevant units to counter such interference,

(c) the number and nature of any representations, requests, referrals or notices, whether formal or informal, made by or on behalf of His Majesty's Government (including any relevant unit) to—

(i) providers of Part 3 services, or

(ii) any other person providing an internet service,

regarding content moderation, terms-of-service enforcement or the removal or restriction of content, including any made through a trusted flagger or similar arrangement which relate to the targeting of elections, and

(d) the operational safeguards maintained to ensure that measures to counter foreign state interference targeting elections do not impede lawful domestic political debate, journalistic activity or freedom of expression during a regulated election period.

(5) The Secretary of State must, within three months of the end of each reporting period—

(a) submit the report under subsection (4) to the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, and

(b) lay before Parliament a copy of the report, subject to subsection (6).

(6) If the Secretary of State, after consulting the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, considers that the publication of any matter in the report would

be prejudicial to national security, that matter may be excluded from the copy laid before Parliament under subsection (5)(b); and the copy so laid must state that matter has been excluded.

(7) In this section—

"internet service" has the meaning given by section 228 of the Online Safety Act 2023;

"OFCOM" means the Office of Communications;

"Part 3 service" has the meaning given by section 4 of the Online Safety Act 2023, and references to the provider of such a service are to be read in accordance with section 226 of that Act;

"regulated election period", in relation to an election or referendum, means the period beginning with the day on which notice of the election or referendum is given and ending with the day of the poll;

"relevant unit" means any unit within His Majesty's Government established to counter foreign interference, state-backed disinformation or threats to democratic processes, including—

(a) the Defending Democracy Taskforce,

(b) the National Centre for Information Defence,

(c) the National Security Online Information Team, and

(d) any successor body to a unit mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c);

"reporting period" means—

(a) the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, and

(b) each subsequent period of 12 months."

Member's explanatory statement

This new Clause places executive counter-interference bodies in a statutory governance framework. It requires the Secretary of State to establish formal coordination protocols and introduces a Canadian-style critical election incident public protocol to warn the public of severe foreign election subversion.

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Report on foreign financial influence and interference in UK elections

(1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, publish a report on the impact of foreign financial influence and interference on the integrity of elections in the United Kingdom.

(2) The report under subsection (1) must review the extent of the following activities and their impact on voters—

(a) foreign-based social media companies amplifying electoral campaign material via algorithms, and

(b) donations made to registered parties, think tanks, lobbying firms and other regulated donees in the United Kingdom originating from—

(i) foreign governments,
(ii) companies or groups based outside the United Kingdom,
(iii) individuals with non-UK citizenship, and
(iv) grant-giving foundations based outside the United Kingdom.

(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 foreign electoral interference and influence and its impact on the integrity of elections in the United Kingdom.

LORD FULLER

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Review of the impact of this Act on voting systems used at mayoral and police and crime commissioner elections

(1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must review the impact of changes made by this Act on the suitability of the voting systems used for the election of—
(a) the Mayor of London, under Part I of Schedule 2 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (election of the mayor);
(b) a mayor elected under Schedule 2 to the Local Government Act 2000 (election of elected mayor);
(c) a police and crime commissioner elected under Chapter 6 of Part 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (police and crime commissioners: elections and vacancies).

(2) In particular the review must consider whether the provisions of this Act render a different voting system more suitable, including a simple majority system."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks a review of the impact of this Act on the suitability of the voting system used for elections for the Mayor of London, other elected mayors, and Police and Crime Commissioners.

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
BARONESS THORNHILL
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Offences for purposes of Part 5 of the Elections Act 2022: domestic abuse

(1) Schedule 9 to the Elections Act 2022 (offences for the purpose of Part 5) is amended as set out in subsection (2).

(2) After paragraph 52A (Online Safety Act 2023) insert—

"Domestic Abuse Act 2021

52B Any offence where the behaviour of the accused amounted to domestic abuse within the meaning of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (see section 1 of that Act).""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would add offences amounting to domestic abuse to the list of Schedule 9 offences for which provisions relating to hostility would apply.

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
BARONESS THORNHILL
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Disqualification orders for court orders relating to abuse or harassment

(1) The Elections Act 2022 is amended as follows.

(2) After section 30 (disqualification orders) insert—

"30A Disqualification orders in connection with court orders relating to abuse or harassment

(1) This section applies where—
  (a) a person ("the perpetrator") has a qualifying order made against them,
  (b) the perpetrator was aged 18 or over when the order was made, and
  (c) the court is satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that behaviour done to a person for whose protection the qualifying order is made is aggravated by hostility to a person falling within any of sections 32 to 34.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), a qualifying order is—
  (a) a domestic violence protection order,
  (b) a non-molestation order, or
  (c) a restraining order.

(3) The court must, when making a qualifying order, also make an order (a "disqualification order") that the offender is disqualified, for the period in which the qualifying order is in force—

(a) for being nominated for election to a relevant elective office, and

(b) for being elected to or holding a relevant elective office.

(4) Subsection (2) does not apply where the court considers that there are particular circumstances relating to the qualifying order or to the perpetrator which would make it unjust in all the circumstances to make the order; and in such a case the court must state the reasons for not making the order.

(5) For the purposes of this section an offence is aggravated by hostility related to persons falling within any of sections 32 to 34 if—

(a) at the time the order was made, or immediately before or after, the offender demonstrated towards the person for whose protection the order was made, hostility based on the person being (or being presumed to be) a person falling within any of sections 32 to 34, or

(b) the abusive behaviour was motivated (wholly or partly) by hostility towards persons falling within any of those sections in their capacity as such.

(6) For the purposes of subsection (5) it is immaterial whether or not the perpetrator's hostility is also based, to any extent, on any other factor not mentioned in that subsection.

(7) For the purpose of deciding whether to make a disqualification order the court may consider evidence led by the prosecution and the defence.

(8) It is immaterial whether evidence led in pursuance of subsection (7) would have been admissible in the proceedings in which the protection order was made.

(9) In this section—

"domestic violence protection order" has the meaning set out in section 27 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (meaning of "domestic abuse protection order");

"non-molestation order" has the meaning set out in section 42 of the Family Law Act 1996 (non-molestation orders);

"restraining order" has the meaning set out in Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Sentencing Act 2020 (protection from harassment);

"presumed" means presumed by the offender."

(3) In section 37 (interpretation of Part), in subsection (1) after "section 30" insert "or 30A"."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require courts to make a disqualifying order alongside court orders imposed to prevent abuse or harassment in cases where the hostility relates to a person protected under the Elections Act 2022.

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
BARONESS THORNHILL
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Code of Conduct for Political Campaigning

(1) The Electoral Commission must prepare and publish a Code of Conduct for Political Campaigning (the "Campaign Code").

(2) The Campaign Code must set out principles and guidance relating to political campaigning and must in particular include provisions relating to—
  (a) honesty in political debate and reasonable efforts to not mislead voters, and
  (b) the avoidance of intimidation, harassment or abusive conduct.

(3) In this section "political campaigning" means any conduct, communications or other activity which can reasonably be regarded as intended, directly or indirectly, to influence public support for, or opposition to—
  (a) a registered political party,
  (b) a candidate or prospective candidate at a general election, by-election, local election or mayoral election, or
  (c) an outcome in a referendum.

(4) Before preparing or revising the Campaign Code in accordance with this section, the Electoral Commission must—
  (a) publish proposals,
  (b) consult with representatives of parties appointed to the Parliamentary Parties Panel in accordance with section 4 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (parliamentary parties panel), and
  (c) consult such other persons as the Electoral Commission considers appropriate.

(5) The Electoral Commission may revise the Campaign Code from time to time, and subsections (2) to (4) apply to a revised Campaign Code as they apply to the original.

(6) The Electoral Commission must send the Campaign Code and each revision to the Secretary of State, who must lay a copy before Parliament.

(7) The Electoral Commission must publish the Campaign Code and each revision in such manner as the Electoral Commission may determine.

(8) This section applies in relation to elections and referendums for which provision may be made by an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Electoral Commission to produce a code of conduct for political campaigning.

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
BARONESS THORNHILL
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Enforcement of the Code of Conduct for Political Campaigning

(1) Where the Electoral Commission considers that political campaigning is inconsistent with the Campaign Code established under section (*Code of conduct for registered political parties*), it may take such of the following steps as it considers reasonable and proportionate to remedy or prevent reoccurrence of any breach—

(a) issuing a notice to the person or political party responsible for the campaigning, requiring them to take steps to bring the campaigning into compliance with the Campaign Code,

(b) publishing a formal finding of non-compliance on its website,

(c) requiring the person or political party responsible to publish a correction, clarification or other statement where the Electoral Commission considers this appropriate,

(d) issuing a warning or other formal notice in respect of a breach,

(e) imposing a civil sanction in accordance with its powers under Schedule 19C to PPERA 2000 (civil sanctions), or

(f) in the case of a registered political party, taking such steps as are available to it under PPERA 2000 in relation to the party's registration.

(2) Where the Electoral Commission imposes a civil sanction under subsection (1)(e), it must publish a notice setting out—

(a) the nature of the breach,

(b) the sanction imposed, and

(c) the reasons for the sanction.

(3) A person on whom a civil sanction is imposed under subsection (1)(e) may appeal in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 19C to PPERA 2000 (representations and appeals etc).

(4) In exercising its functions under subsection (1), the Electoral Commission must have due regard to the importance of protecting freedom of expression and open political debate.

(5) A failure to comply with the Campaign Code does not constitute a criminal offence."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause sets out enforcement mechanisms for the proposed code of conduct for political campaigning.

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON
BARONESS THORNHILL
BARONESS SMITH OF LLANFAES

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Code of conduct for registered political parties

(1) When a person is carrying out political campaigning, that person must have due regard to the Campaign Code established under section (*Code of Conduct for Political Campaigning*).

(2) A registered political party must prepare, publish and keep under review a code of conduct relating to its political campaigning.

(3) A code of conduct under subsection (2) must be consistent with the Campaign Code and must in particular include provisions relating to—

(a) honesty in political debate and reasonable efforts to not mislead voters, and

(b) the avoidance of intimidation, harassment or abusive conduct."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause requires political parties to have codes of conduct aligned with the proposed code of conduct for political campaigning.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Extended incapacities following corrupt or illegal practices

(1) RPA 1983 is amended as follows.

(2) In section 160 (persons reported personally guilty of corrupt or illegal practices), in subsection (5)—

(a) in paragraph (a) (corrupt practice), for "five years" substitute "ten years";

(b) in paragraph (b) (illegal practice), for "three years" substitute "ten years".

(3) In section 165 (avoidance of election for employing corrupt agent), after subsection (3) insert—

"(3A) A person commits an offence if they engage a person under subsection (1) who is incapable of acting as an agent by virtue of this section.

(3B) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (3) is liable to a fine not exceeding Level 3 on the standard scale."

(4) In section 173 (incapacities on conviction of corrupt or illegal practice)—

(a) after subsection (1)(a)(iii), insert—

"(iv) being a candidate at any parliamentary or local government election, or

(v) acting as an election agent or sub-agent for any candidate at any such election; and";

(b) in subsection (3) (relevant period)—

(i) in paragraph (a) (corrupt practice), for "five years" substitute "ten years";

(ii) in paragraph (b) (illegal practice), for "three years" substitute "ten years".

(5) In section 173A (incapacity to hold public or judicial office in Scotland), in subsection (1)(a), for "five years" substitute "ten years".

(6) The amendments made by this section apply only in relation to a person convicted, or reported by an election court as personally guilty, on or after the day on which this section comes into force.

(7) Nothing in this section affects the operation of section 174 of RPA 1983 (mitigation and remission etc)."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would double the period during which a person convicted of a corrupt practice or illegal practice, or reported personally guilty by an election court, is barred from standing as a candidate or acting as an agent, from five years to ten.

BARONESS COFFEY

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Reduction of age of candidacy for parliamentary elections

(1) Section 17 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (minimum age) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), for "18" substitute "17".

(3) After subsection (8) insert—

"(9) The provisions of this section must apply to any parliamentary general election or parliamentary by-election held after the day on which the Representation of the People Act 2026 is passed.""

Member's explanatory statement
This is a probing amendment seeking to change the minimum age to stand as a candidate in a UK parliamentary election, lowering the minimum age requirement from 18 to 17 years old.

BARONESS HAZARIKA

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Guidance on the law relating to digital communication offences in relation to elections

(1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, publish and lay before both Houses of Parliament guidance on certain digital communication offences, including offences involving digital manipulation and artificially generated content in relation to candidates and elected officials.

(2) Any guidance issued under section (1) must include guidance on the following—
  (a) the operation of section 106 (false statements as to candidates) of the RPA 1983 in relation to digital communications;
  (b) the operation of section 114A (undue influence) of the RPA 1983 in relation to digital communications;
  (c) the interaction between the operations of sections 106 and 114A of the RPA 1983 and the duty of providers under the Online Safety Act 2023, including in relation to priority offences during election periods.

(3) Within 12 months of the publication of guidance under subsection (1) and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State must publish and lay before Parliament either—
  (a) a statement that no updates to the guidance are required, or
  (b) an updated version of the guidance.

(4) Before issuing—
  (a) any guidance under subsection (1) or subsection (3)(b), or
  (b) a statement under subsection (3)(a),
  the Secretary of State must consult Ofcom and such other persons as they think necessary.

(5) For the purposes of this section "priority offences" means an offence listed in Schedule 7 (priority offences) of the Online Safety Act 2023."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Government to publish guidance on the operation of certain offences relating to digital communications as they relate to candidates and elected officials.

BARONESS HAZARIKA

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Report on electoral online harms

(1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Electoral Commission must publish a report on the prevention of electoral online harms.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "electoral online harms" includes—
  (a) abuse and harassment of or threats directed towards elected representatives, candidates, party campaigners and election officials, or

(b) incitement to violence against any such individuals,

but does not include mockery or insult, save where it forms part of a campaign of harassment.

(3) Any report published under subsection (1) must contain—

(a) an assessment of the risks of electoral online harms, and

(b) proposals to put in place systems to mitigate those risks including through amendment of the Online Safety Act 2023.

(4) Before publishing its report under subsection (1) the Electoral Commission must consult—

(a) Ofcom, and

(b) the National Police Chiefs Council."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Electoral Commission to publish a report containing an assessment of the risks of online electoral harms, and proposals to put in place systems to mitigate those risks.

BARONESS HAZARIKA

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Government review of the "regulated periods" in relation to elections

(1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, commission a review of the adequacy of the current regulated periods for elections and referendums.

(2) The review must consider the following—

(a) the impact of campaign activity outside the relevant regulated period on elections;

(b) whether the length of the regulated periods are sufficient to tackle the prevalence of—

(i) manipulated content,

(ii) misinformation, and

(iii) disinformation,

and their potential influence on elections.

(3) The review may make any recommendations it feels necessary for legislative or regulatory reform as a result of its findings.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "campaign activity" includes—

(a) digital campaigning,

(b) targeted advertising, and

(c) automated content distribution.

(5) For the purposes of this section "regulated period" means any period regulated under the Representation of the People Act 1983.

(6) The Secretary of State must lay a report of the review before both Houses of Parliament, together with their response to any recommendations for legislative or regulatory reform."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause requires the government to establish a review of the "regulated periods" in relation to elections which would consider whether the length of the regulated periods are sufficient in relation to the prevalence of manipulated content, misinformation and disinformation.

BARONESS HAZARIKA

After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Critical election incident protocol

(1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, publish and lay before both Houses of Parliament, a Critical Election Incident Protocol ("the Protocol") for the purpose of responding to incidents that present a significant risk to the integrity, security or public confidence of elections.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a "Critical Election Incident" means any event, threat or activity that poses a substantial risk to—
  (a) the integrity, security or administration of an election,
  (b) the ability of the public to freely participate in the electoral process, or
  (c) public confidence in the fairness or legitimacy of an election.

(3) Before publishing the Protocol, the Secretary must consult the following on its contents—
  (a) relevant civil society organisations,
  (b) relevant experts, and
  (c) relevant regulators.

(4) Any Protocol published under subsection (1) must include—
  (a) the establishment of an oversight body comprised of such senior ministers and officials as the Secretary of State considers appropriate,
  (b) the establishment of an advisory body of civil society and experts with relevant expertise as the Secretary of State considers appropriate,
  (c) criteria by which Critical Election Incidents are identified and the Protocol is triggered,
  (d) categories of severity of Critical Election Incidents based on their severity, and
  (e) details of differentiated responses to Critical Election Incidents for each of the categories identified under paragraph (d) which would be necessary and proportionate.

(5) Any Protocol published under subsection (1) must be compatible with the United Kingdom's human rights obligations, including but not limited to the right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

(6) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a report on the operation of the Protocol—

(a) one year after the publication of the Protocol under section (1) and annually thereafter, and

(b) within three months of any occasion on which the Protocol has been used.

(7) Any report published under subsection (6) must include—

(a) a description of activities undertaken under the Protocol, subject to any necessary limitations relating to national security or ongoing investigations;

(b) information about consultation with the established oversight and advisory bodies;

(c) an assessment of the impact of the Protocol on human rights and democratic participation.

(8) Any report produced under subsection (6) must be sent to the Housing and Local Government Committee of the House of Commons.

(9) In this section, references to Housing and Local Government Committee shall—

(a) if the name of that Committee is changed, be taken (subject to paragraph (b)) to be references to the Committee by its new name;

(b) if the functions of that Committee at the day that this Act is passed with respect to matters relating to Protocol become functions of a different committee of the House of Commons, be taken to be references to the committee by whom the functions for the time being are exercisable."

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 89

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Clause 89, page 126, line 26, at end insert—

"(ai) section (*Payments by and to returning officers: repeal of proposed transfer of functions*)(1)(b);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on my amendment inserting a new clause (Payments by and to returning officers: repeal of proposed transfer of functions) after clause 40. It would provide for a repeal made by that clause to have the same geographic extent (England and Wales and Scotland) as the provision repealed.

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Clause 89, page 126, line 35, at end insert—

"(iv) paragraphs 23 to 29 of Schedule 1;"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on the amendment in my name inserting Part 3 into Schedule 1 to the Bill.

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.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

Clause 90, page 127, line 35, at end insert—

"(za) section (*Referendum on extension of right to vote to 16 and 17 year olds*) (referendum on extension of right to vote to 16 and 17 year olds);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on other amendments in the name of Lord Udny-Lister.

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".

BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY
LORD JAMIESON

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

"(ba) 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 127, line 40, at end insert—

"(ba) 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 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.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

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

"(ba) section (*Assessment of susceptibility of 16 and 17 year olds to election-related disinformation and foreign interference*) (assessment of susceptibility of 16 and 17 year olds to election-related disinformation and foreign interference);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on other amendments in the name of Lord Udny-Lister.

BARONESS HAZARIKA

Clause 90, page 128, line 9, at end insert—

"(ga) section 42(3A) (enhanced disclosure and barring service check declaration)"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on Baroness Hazarika's amendment to clause 42, page 50, line 25.

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".

LORD FROST

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

"(ha) section (*Overseas voting: White Paper and draft legislation*);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment and another in the name of Lord Frost require a review of voting through British diplomatic and consular posts, including for postal voters who will be abroad on polling day, and a White Paper within 12 months with draft legislation for consultation where required. The consequential amendment brings the review and publication duties into force on Royal Assent.

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

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

"(ja) Part 3 of Schedule 1 (canvass conducted in England before the coming into force of section 3);"

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would provide for the provisions in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Bill (inserted by the amendment in my name) to come into force on Royal Assent.

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

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

"(l) sections 6 and 49 so far as they relate to the provisions of Schedules 1 and 3 mentioned in paragraphs (ja) and (k)."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment would provide for the sections which introduce Schedules 1 and 3 to come into force on Royal Assent, in so far as they relate to the provisions of those Schedules which come into force on Royal Assent.

LORD PACK
BARONESS PINNOCK

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
BARONESS PINNOCK

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.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

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

"(2A) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) which bring section 1(2) (extension of right to vote) into force may not be made unless—

(a) a majority of votes have been cast in favour of lowering the voting age to 16 in a referendum held under section (*Referendum on extension of right to vote to 16 and 17 year olds)*, and

(b) the duty under section (*Assessment of susceptibility of 16 and 17 years old to election-related disinformation and foreign interference*) has been discharged."

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment seeks to ensure that the Government holds a referendum and publishes an assessment of susceptibility of 16 and 17 year olds to election-related disinformation and foreign interference before lowering the voting age to 16.

LORD UDNY-LISTER

Clause 90, page 128, line 28, at end insert—

"(5A) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) which bring section 1(2) into force 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 require the approval of both Houses of Parliament under the affirmative procedure before the voting age is lowered to 16 for future elections to the House of Commons.

Representation of the People Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL

AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tabled up to and including

28 October 2026

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28 October 2026

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS