Representation of the People Bill

AMENDMENTS

TO BE MOVED

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Supplementary to the Marshalled List]

Amendment No.

After Clause 16

BARONESS BERRIDGE

44A★ After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Guidance for safeguarding children during political campaigning

(1) The Secretary of State must consult the Electoral Commission about publishing guidance on safeguarding children during political campaigning.

(2) In this section "political campaigning" refers to any activity undertaken to increase support for a registered political party, candidate or referendum outcome."

Member's explanatory statement
This new Clause seeks to ensure safeguarding guidance is in place for political campaigners when coming into contact with children during campaigns.

LORD BIRD

44B★ After Clause 16, insert the following new Clause—

"Voting eligibility of convicted persons in detention

In section 3 of RPA 1983 (disfranchisement of offenders in prison etc.)—

(a) for subsection (1), substitute—

"(1) A convicted person, during the time that they are detained in a penal institution in pursuance of a sentence imposed for a term exceeding 12 months, or unlawfully at large when they would otherwise be so detained, is legally incapable of voting at any parliamentary or local government election."

(b) omit subsection (1A), and

(c) in subsection (1B), for "1A" substitute "1"."

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause seeks to bring to parity prisoner voting rules across the UK, regularising laws with those in Scotland. The clause will extend the franchise at UK Parliamentary and local government elections to include those serving a custodial sentence not exceeding 12 months and who would ordinarily be eligible.

After Clause 52

LORD CLEMENT-JONES

116A★ After Clause 52, insert the following new Clause—

"False statements as to candidates: deepfakes

In section 106 of RPA 1983 (false statements as to candidates), after subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) For the purposes of subsection (1), a false statement of fact in relation to the personal character or conduct of a candidate includes any electronic communication, including visual images, audio recordings or text, that has been generated or materially altered by means of an AI system or synthetic media, depicting the candidate saying something that they did not say or doing something that did not occur.

(1B) A person does not commit an offence under subsection (1) by virtue of subsection (1A) if—

(a) the communication constitutes genuine parody, satire, caricature, or artistic expression, and

(b) a reasonable person would recognise it as such,

or it is accompanied by a clear and prominent disclosure label stating that the content has been synthetically generated or altered.

(1C) In this section—

"AI system" has the same meaning as in section 135(4) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025;

"synthetic media" means visual images, audio recordings, or textual content that have been artificially generated, altered, or manipulated by digital, electronic, or computational means.""

Member's explanatory statement
This amendment clarifies that the offence under section 106 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (making false statements as to a candidate's personal character or conduct) encompasses synthetic media, audio voice clones, deepfake video, and AI-generated text depicting a candidate saying or doing something that did not occur.

After Clause 62

LORD WILLS

155A★ After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause—

"Power to vary donations cap limit

(1) PPERA 2000 is amended as follows.

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

"56A Power to vary donations cap following review

(1) Within 12 months of the day on which a United Kingdom parliamentary general election is held, the Secretary of State must carry out and publish a review of—

(a) any cap on political donations in force at the time of the review, or

(b) if no cap on political donations is in force at that time, whether such a cap should be imposed.

(2) In conducting a review under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must—

(a) have regard to technical advice from the Electoral Commission on workability and enforcement,

(b) consult and have regard to the views of the registered leader of each registered party to which two or more Members of the House of Commons then belong, and

(c) have regard to the effectiveness and appropriate level of any existing donations cap, or whether a donations cap would be effective and, if so, the appropriate level at which it should be set.

(3) In conducting a review under subsection (1), the Secretary of State may also consult and have regard to the views of others with relevant knowledge and expertise, such as the Ethics and Integrity Commission.

(4) The Secretary of State must publish the conclusions of the review and a Minister must either make an oral statement to the House of Commons on the conclusions of the review, or lay a written statement before Parliament which discusses the conclusions of the review and the reasons for not making an oral statement.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations specify a limit they consider appropriate for the purposes of a donations cap only following a post-election review under subsection (1), and within six months of the conclusion of that review.

(6) Where another United Kingdom parliamentary general election falls within the period specified under subsection (1), the review must be completed within 12 months of the day of that subsequent general election."

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

"(ba) section 56A(5),""

Member's explanatory statement
This new clause would require the Secretary of State to carry out and publish a review of any donation caps within 12 months following a UK parliamentary general election, which must include consultation of the Electoral Commission and leaders of parties within the House of Commons. The Secretary of State may change the level of the donations cap following a post-election review by regulations.

After Clause 78

LORD EVANS OF SEALAND

237A★ After Clause 78, insert the following new Clause—

"Promotion of understanding of political parties and democratic participation among young voters

(1) Section 13 of PPERA 2000 (education about electoral and democratic systems) is amended as follows.

(2) After subsection (1) insert—

"(1A) The Commission must, in the exercise of its functions under this section, promote awareness and understanding among potential voters aged 16 and 17 of—

(a) the arrangements for registration as a parliamentary elector, a local government elector or referendum voter in England or Northern Ireland, a Northern Ireland Assembly elector, or a Police and Crime Commissioner elector in England or Wales, that apply to them, and

(b) the role of political parties in representative democracy, including their functions in developing policy, selecting candidates, representing political opinions, forming governments and providing opposition.

(1B) In carrying out its duties under subsection (1A), the Commission must—

(a) act impartially as between registered political parties;

(b) respect the freedom of individuals to choose whether, and in what manner, to participate in party political activity;

(c) not promote support for or opposition to any particular registered political party or candidate."

(3) After subsection (4) insert—

"(4A) The Commission must include in its annual report an account of the activities undertaken in pursuance of subsection (1A), including an assessment of their effectiveness in improving understanding among 16 and 17 year olds of the role of political parties.""

After Clause 84

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

269A★ After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Media and political literacy duties relating to elections and referendums

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

(2) In section 6 (overview of Part 3), after subsection (5) insert—

"(5A) Section 40A imposes duties on providers of certain regulated user-to-user services and regulated search services relating to media and political literacy in connection with elections and referendums."

(3) After section 40 (fraud etc offences) insert—

"40A Media and political literacy duties relating to elections and referendums

(1) A provider of a Category 1 service or a Category 2A service must take reasonable and proportionate measures in the design and operation of the service which are designed to support the media and political literacy of United Kingdom users of the service in relation to elections and referendums held in the United Kingdom, including their ability to understand and evaluate information about voting arrangements, candidates and political campaigning encountered by means of the service.

(2) For the purposes of this section, supporting the media and political literacy of users in relation to such elections and referendums includes supporting their ability to—

(a) understand how information relating to elections or referendums is selected, ranked, recommended or otherwise presented to them,

(b) assess the source, provenance and context of such information,

(c) understand when such information has been generated or materially altered by artificial intelligence, where information to that effect is available to the provider,

(d) understand political advertising and other forms of political campaigning relating to elections or referendums encountered by means of the service,

(e) understand and make effective use of tools and settings by which users can control or better understand their experience of the service, and

(f) critically evaluate such information and seek further information or sources before deciding whether to trust, share or act upon it.

(3) In determining what measures are reasonable and proportionate under subsection (1), a provider must have regard in particular to—

(a) the nature, functionalities and reach of the service,

(b) the size and capacity of the provider,

(c) the characteristics and needs of United Kingdom users of the service, and

(d) the degree of control exercised by the provider over the design and operation of the service and the presentation of information to users.

(4) A provider subject to the duty in subsection (1) must, at appropriate intervals—

(a) evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken,

(b) identify any material shortcomings or unintended effects revealed by that evaluation, and

(c) take reasonable and proportionate steps to address them.

(5) A provider must make and keep a written record of the measures taken under subsection (1), the evaluation carried out under subsection (4), and any steps taken in consequence of that evaluation.

(6) In complying with this section, a provider must have particular regard to the importance of—

(a) protecting users' right to freedom of expression within the law, and

(b) protecting the privacy of users.

(7) Nothing in this section requires a provider or OFCOM—

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

(b) to remove or restrict users' access to lawful content.

(8) A provider is to be treated as complying with the duty in 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 duty.

(9) Subsection (8)—

(a) does not prevent a provider from complying with subsection (1) by taking or using other measures, and

(b) does not affect the duties in subsections (4) and (5)."

(4) 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 providers of Category 2A services describing measures recommended for the purpose of compliance with section 40A(1), and giving guidance about the evaluation of those measures for the purposes of section 40A(4).

(4B) In preparing a code under subsection (4A), OFCOM must have regard to the desirability of—

(a) media and political literacy in relation to elections and referendums being supported through the design and operation of services;

(b) measures being accessible and appropriate to different groups of users,

(c) measures being informed by evidence about their effectiveness, and

(d) measures being adapted, where appropriate, to the particular information needs of users before and during elections and referendums."

(5) In section 41(5)(b), for "or (4)" insert ", (4) or (4A)".

(6) 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	Media and political literacy in relation to elections and referendums".

(7) The Office of Communications must submit a draft of the first code of practice under section 41(4A) of the Online Safety Act 2023 to the Secretary of State under section 43(1) of that Act within 12 months beginning with the day on which this section comes into force.

(8) The duties in section 40A of the Online Safety Act 2023 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 providers of Category 1 and Category 2A services to take reasonable and proportionate measures through the design and operation of their services to support users' media and political literacy in relation to elections and referendums in the United Kingdom. Providers would be required to evaluate those measures and respond to material shortcomings.

LORD WALNEY

269B★ After Clause 84, insert the following new Clause—

"Report on foreign state information operations and electoral integrity

(1) The Secretary of State must, within the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, and at intervals of not more than 12 months thereafter, lay before each House of Parliament a report on information operations conducted, directed or assisted by or on behalf of a foreign power which are intended or likely to—

(a) influence the conduct or outcome of a relevant election,

(b) affect participation in a relevant election, or

(c) undermine public confidence in the integrity of relevant elections.

(2) The report must assess the extent to which such operations seek to achieve the purposes set out in subsection (1) by stirring up or exploiting hostility towards candidates on grounds of race or religion, including antisemitism.

(3) The report must include an assessment of—

(a) the impact of such operations on the conduct, participation and integrity of relevant elections and on the experiences of candidates, campaigners, electoral administrators and electors, including with respect to intimidation or harassment,

(b) the steps taken by the Electoral Commission, OFCOM, the police and any other relevant public authority to identify, disrupt and respond to such operations, and

(c) whether further legislative or regulatory measures are required.

(4) In preparing the report, the Secretary of State must consult the Electoral Commission, OFCOM and such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, including persons representing communities affected by the matters discussed in subsection (2).

(5) Nothing in this section requires the publication of material the disclosure of which would, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, be prejudicial to national security; but where material is withheld, the report must say so.

(6) In this section—

"antisemitism" is to be construed having regard to the working definition of antisemitism adopted by His Majesty's Government in December 2016;

"foreign power" has the meaning given by section 32 of the National Security Act 2023;

"information operation" means coordinated activity to create, amplify or disseminate information or narratives, including through inauthentic or automated accounts;

"OFCOM" means the Office of Communications;

"relevant election" means a parliamentary election, an election to the Northern Ireland Assembly or a local government election in England or Northern Ireland."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Government to report annually on foreign state information operations aimed at UK elections, with particular attention to the impact on the conduct, participation and integrity of elections.

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30 October 2026
