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TO

Allow persons aged 16 years or older to vote as electors at parliamentary and local government elections, and in referendums, and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Reduction of voting age

- (1) The Representation of the People Act 1983 is amended as follows—
 - (a) in section 1(1)(d) (definition of voting age for parliamentary elections), for “18” substitute “16”; and
 - (b) in section 2(1)(d) (definition of voting age for local government elections), for “18” substitute “16”. 5
- (2) In the Representation of the People Act 1985, in section 1(5) (entitlement to vote of overseas electors), for “18” substitute “16”.
- (3) In legislation after the coming into force of this Act which institutes any referendum, the definition of those entitled to vote shall in the absence of contrary or qualifying provision be those entitled to vote as electors at a parliamentary election in any constituency. 10

2 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Voting Age (Reduction to 16) Act 2013.
- (2) Section 1 of this Act shall come into force on 1 January 2014. 15
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Voting Age (Reduction to 16) Bill

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To allow persons aged 16 years or older to vote as electors at parliamentary and local government elections, and in referendums, and for connected purposes.

Presented by Stephen Williams

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 23 January 2013.*

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx

Bill 125

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