

Recall of Members of Parliament Bill

CONTENTS

- 1 Interpretation
- 2 Returning officer's notice of a recall petition
- 3 Returning officer to make recall petition available for signature
- 4 Wording of recall petition
- 5 Determination of whether recall petition is successful
- 6 Recall elections
- 7 Rules
- 8 Financial provisions
- 9 Short title, commencement and extent

A
B I L L

TO

Permit voters to recall their Member of Parliament in specified circumstances; 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 Interpretation

In this Act—

“constituency” means an area represented by a Member of Parliament;
and

“recall petition” means a petition calling, in terms determined under section 4, for the seat of an elected representative to be vacated in accordance with this Act. 5

2 Returning officer’s notice of a recall petition

(1) If one per cent of registered voters in the constituency of a Member of Parliament sign a notice-of-intent-to-recall petition stating that they have lost confidence in their Member of Parliament for whatever reason then a recall petition must be made available under section 3. 10

(2) A returning officer must be appointed if a recall petition is to be made available in accordance with subsection (1).

(3) In order for a notice-of-intent-to-recall petition to be valid the Returning Officer must be satisfied that the petition has been submitted in accordance with the rules provided for in subsection (4). 15

(4) The Secretary of State must make rules by statutory instrument within six months of the passing of this Act setting out how a notice-of-intent-to-recall petition is to be submitted. 20

(5) The Returning Officer must, within two weeks from the date on which notice of intention to recall has been submitted under subsection (3), give notice that the elected representative is subject to a recall petition.

3 Returning officer to make recall petition available for signature

- (1) Where the returning officer for a constituency gives notice, the officer must—
 - (a) designate a place or places at which a recall petition is to be made available for signature,
 - (b) ensure that arrangements are made to enable access to the petition, and 5
 - (c) designate a day from which the petition is to be made available for signature.
- (2) The returning officer must ensure that the recall petition is made available for signature at the designated place or places throughout the signing period.
- (3) In this Act “the signing period” means the period— 10
 - (a) beginning with the designated day, and
 - (b) ending with the day eight weeks later.

4 Wording of recall petition

- (1) This section makes provision about the wording of a recall petition that is to be made available for signature under section 3. 15
- (2) The recall petition is to read “If you think that [name], the [Member of Parliament] for [constituency] should be subject to a recall election, please sign below.”

5 Determination of whether recall petition is successful

- (1) A recall petition is successful if the number of persons who validly sign the petition is at least 20% of the number of persons registered in the register of electors for the constituency. 20
- (2) As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the signing period, the returning officer must determine whether the recall petition has been successful. 25
- (3) If the recall petition has been successful then a recall election must be held within two months.

6 Recall elections

- (1) The question that is to appear on the ballot papers in a recall election is “Should [name of Member of Parliament] be recalled from the House of Commons?”. 30
- (2) The Secretary of State must make rules by statutory instrument within 6 months of the passing of this Act making provision relating to the entitlement to vote in, and the conduct of, the recall election.
- (3) If at a recall election more votes are cast in favour of the answer “Yes” than in favour of the answer “No”, then the Member of Parliament is recalled, the seat is declared vacant under the Representation of the People Act 1983 and a by-election, in which the recalled candidate may stand, must be held within two months. 35

7 Rules

A statutory instrument containing rules under this Act is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

8 Financial provisions

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament any costs incurred by the Secretary of State in connection with carrying out his functions under this Act. 5

9 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Recall of Members of Parliament Act 2014.
- (2) Section 2(1) of this Act comes into force at the end of the period of 18 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed. 10
- (3) The remaining provisions of this Act come into force on the day it is passed.
- (4) This Act extends to England and Wales.

Recall of Members of Parliament Bill

A

B I L L

To permit voters to recall their Member of Parliament in specified circumstances; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Zac Goldsmith,
supported by
Mr Douglas Carswell, Mr Graham Stuart,
Mr Dominic Raab, Nick de Bois,
Mark Reckless, Mr Frank Field,
Kate Hoey, Mr Michael Meacher
and Caroline Lucas.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 31 March 2014.*

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2014

*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at
www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright.*

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED

Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited

£3.00

Bill 193

(39798)

55/3



ISBN 978-0-215-07098-2

