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**B I L L**

TO

Make provision for the registration of voters by registration officers; and for connected purposes.

**B**E 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 Power of Secretary of State to make regulations for data sharing**

- (1) The Secretary of State shall by regulation impose a duty on specified government bodies requiring such bodies to provide specified information to registration officers for the purposes of electoral registration.
- (2) Registration officers shall use such specified information received in relation to a person—
  - (a) if the specified information received contains all of the information required, to register that person on the appropriate electoral register or registers; or
  - (b) if the specified information does not contain all of the information required, to make further enquiries of that person to receive the information required to register that person on the appropriate electoral register or registers.
- (3) Regulations made under subsection (1) shall include the provision of data collected by specified government bodies by virtue of specified applications.
- (4) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this section shall give any government body the power to share any information about a person without that person's consent.

**2 Duties on registration officers**

- (1) Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (registration officers: duty to take necessary steps) is amended as follows.

- (2) Before paragraph (a) in subsection (2), there is inserted –
- “(za) taking active steps to increase the number of people on the electoral register that belong to a specified group;
  - (zb) leading or arranging for one voter engagement session per academic year at each school or further education college within his area of responsibility;”.

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### 3 Interpretation

In this Act –

“election” shall mean a parliamentary or local election within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act 1983; 10

“electoral register” shall mean the registers in section 9 of the Representation of the people Act 1983;

“specified applications” means any applications made by a person potentially eligible to be registered to vote as are specified in regulations made under section 1(1), including “applications for new or renewed driving licences”, “applications for disability living allowance, job seekers allowance, or employment support allowance”; 15

“applications for new or renewed passports” and “applications to register with a GP” (as applicable to the specified government body);

“specified government bodies” means any government bodies that are specified in regulations made under section 1(1), including “the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency”, “the Department of Work and Pensions”, “HM Passport Office” and “the NHS”; 20

“specified group” shall have the meaning determined by regulations made by the Secretary of State but shall include the following groups – 25

- (a) people aged 16 to 24 years’ old;
- (b) people with a disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010; and

- (c) people from a race, within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010, who made up less than 10 per cent of the population of the United Kingdom in the previous census; and 30

“specified information” means any information required to register a person on the electoral register as are specified in regulations made under section 1(1), including a person’s full name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. 35

### 4 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act shall extend to England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on the day it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Voter Registration Act 2015.

# Voter Registration

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To make provision for the registration of voters by registration officers; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Chris Ruane,  
Mr Russell Brown, Nic Dakin, Mr Clive Betts,  
Mr Kevan Jones, Mr George Howarth,  
Mr Mark Williams, Mr Elfyn Llwyd,  
Jim Shannon, Jessica Morden and Mark Durkan.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 27 January 2015.*

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