

# Overseas Voters Bill

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## CONTENTS

- 1 Duty to facilitate participation of electors resident overseas
- 2 Criteria for eligibility to register as an overseas voter
- 3 Internet voting
- 4 Commencement, extent and short title

A  
**B I L L**

TO

Make provision to facilitate an increase in the registration of voters resident overseas who are eligible to participate in United Kingdom Parliamentary elections; to extend the criteria for eligibility to register as an overseas voter and to enable those registered as overseas voters to cast their votes through use of the internet; 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 Duty to facilitate participation of electors resident overseas**

It shall be the duty of the Electoral Commission so far as is reasonably practicable to—

- (a) identify the names and addresses of British citizens resident overseas who would be able to participate in United Kingdom Parliamentary elections if they were registered to vote, and 5
- (b) facilitate the registration of those identified in paragraph (a).

**2 Criteria for eligibility to register as an overseas voter**

There shall be no restriction placed upon the eligibility of a British citizen resident overseas to register to vote or vote in UK Parliamentary elections based solely upon the length of time that such voter has been resident overseas. 10

**3 Internet voting**

- (1) The Secretary of State shall bring forward regulations to enable British citizens resident overseas who are duly registered on the electoral register to participate in UK Parliamentary elections to cast their votes through the use of the internet. 15
- (2) The regulations under subsection (1) above shall include provisions to prevent identity fraud and to ensure that only those eligible to vote can vote.

- (3) Regulations under this section shall be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by, a resolution of each House of Parliament.

**4 Commencement, extent and short title**

- (1) This Act shall commence on the day on which it receives Royal Assent. 5
- (2) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Overseas Voters Act 2016.

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## B I L L

To make provision to facilitate an increase in the registration of voters resident overseas who are eligible to participate in United Kingdom Parliamentary elections; to extend the criteria for eligibility to register as an overseas voter and to enable those registered as overseas voters to cast their votes through use of the internet; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope,  
supported by Mr Peter Bone,  
Philip Davies,  
Sir Edward Leigh,  
Mr David Nuttall and  
Mr Philip Hollobone.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 6 July 2015.*

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