

Voter Registration Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Prohibit persons from being registered to vote in Parliamentary elections at more than one address; 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 Registration of more than one address: duty of Secretary of State to make regulations

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations impose a duty on electoral registration officers to prohibit them from registering a person to vote in a Parliamentary election at more than one address. 5
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) must require that—
 - (a) an electoral registration officer must establish whether a person applying to register an address to vote in Parliamentary elections is already registered at another address,
 - (b) if a person is already registered at another address, an electoral registration officer must—
 - (i) inform that person that they may not be registered at more than one address to vote in a Parliamentary election,
 - (ii) inform that person that they must choose which address they would like to have registered for a Parliamentary election, 15
 - (iii) ensure that, if a person chooses to register a new address for a Parliamentary election, that the original address must first be removed from the Parliamentary electoral register, and
 - (iv) ensure that, if a person chooses to keep their existing registered address on the register for a Parliamentary election, then the electoral registration officer must not register the new address. 20
- (3) The power to make regulations under subsection (1) is exercisable by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

2 Interpretation

In this Act—

“electoral registration officer” has the meaning given in section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983;

“Parliamentary election” has the meaning given in Schedule 1 to the Interpretation Act 1978;

“Parliamentary electoral register” means a register of parliamentary electors maintained under section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

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3 Extent, commencement and short title

(1) This Act shall extend to England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

(2) The Act shall come into force on the day on which it receives Royal Assent.

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(3) This Act may be cited as the Voter Registration Act 2021.

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Presented by Mr Peter Bone

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