

# General Election (Public Support) Bill

---

[AS INTRODUCED]

## CONTENTS

- 1 Public support for early general election
- 2 Extent, commencement and short title

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

# B I L L

TO

Provide for a mechanism for an early general election to be held in certain circumstances, where the public has demonstrated support for such an election; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the King'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 Public support for early general election**

- (1) The Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022 is amended as follows.
- (2) For section 4, substitute—

### **“4 Automatic dissolution of Parliament**

If it has not been dissolved earlier, a Parliament dissolves—

5

- (a) at the beginning of the day that is the fifth anniversary of the day on which it first met, or
- (b) in accordance with section 4A.

### **4A Public support for early general election**

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations provide for a mechanism by which the public can demonstrate support for an early general election, such that—
  - (a) after the day that is two years and six months after the day on which the Parliament first met, a process to start a petition for an early general election can begin,
  - (b) if any such petition is signed by a number of people that is greater than 10% of the number of votes cast at the previous general election, a signing period begins,
  - (c) a signing period is the period of 100 days beginning with the day on which the threshold in subsection 1(b) is met,
  - (d) if, before the end of the signing period, the petition is signed by a number of people that is greater than 50% of the number of votes cast at the previous general election, Parliament

10

15

20

dissolves at the end of the period of two weeks beginning with the day on which that threshold was met.

- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) must—
  - (a) provide that a person is eligible to sign a petition under this section if they are eligible to register to vote in a general election, 5
  - (b) provide for the verification of eligibility of signatories to a petition, and
  - (c) make provision for a petition to be signed either in person or by post. 10
- (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

## **2 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 15
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the General Election (Public Support) Act 2023.

# General Election (Public Support) Bill

---

---

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

## B I L L

TO

Provide for a mechanism for an early general election to be held in certain circumstances, where the public has demonstrated support for such an election; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Richard Burgon*

---

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be  
Printed, 25th January 2023.

---

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2022

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

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS