

# Government of Wales (Referendum on Devolution) Bill

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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# B I L L

TO

Make provision for a referendum on devolution in Wales; to provide that no further such referendum may take place within twenty five years; 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 Referendum on devolution in Wales

- (1) A referendum is to be held on devolution in Wales and the abolition of the Senedd and the Welsh Government.
- (2) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, appoint the day upon which the referendum is to be held. 5
- (3) The day appointed under subsection (2) must be no later than 31 December 2024.
- (4) The question that is to appear on the ballot papers is—  
“Should the Senedd and the Welsh Government remain in place or be abolished ?” 10  
“A ddylai’r Senedd a Llywodraeth Cymru aros yn eu lle neu cael eu diddymu?”
- (5) The alternative answers to that question that are to appear on the ballot papers are—  
“Keep devolution in Wales and do not abolish the Senedd and the Welsh Government” 15  
“Cadw ddatganoliaeth yng Nghymru a peidio diddymu'r Senedd a Llywodraeth Cymru”  
“End devolution in Wales and abolish the Senedd and the Welsh Government” 20  
“Gorffen ddatganoliaeth yng Nghymru a diddymu'r Senedd a Llywodraeth Cymru”

## 2 Entitlement to vote in the referendum

Those entitled to vote in the referendum are the persons who, on the date of the referendum, would be entitled to vote as electors at a parliamentary election in any constituency in Wales.

## 3 Conduct of the referendum and further provisions

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- (1) The Electoral Commission shall publish a report setting out its recommendations for the rules in accordance with which the referendum is to be conducted, further provisions about the referendum and the application to the referendum of provisions relevant to elections.
- (2) The Secretary of State, having regard to the report under subsection (1), must by regulations provide for the rules in accordance with which the referendum is to be conducted. 10
- (3) The Secretary of State may by regulations give effect to further provisions about the referendum and the application to the referendum of provisions relevant to elections as recommended by the Electoral Commission. 15
- (4) 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 Timing of further referendums

No referendum on devolution in Wales and the abolition of the Senedd and the Welsh Government may be held within twenty five years of the date appointed by the Secretary of State under section 1(2). 20

## 5 Expenditure

*There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –*

- (a) *any expenditure of the Secretary of State in consequence of this Act, and* 25
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums which under any other Act are payable out of money so provided.*

## 6 Commencement and short title

- (1) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (2) This Act may be cited as the Government of Wales (Referendum on Devolution) Act 2023. 30

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Make provision for a referendum on devolution in Wales; to provide that no further such referendum may take place within twenty five years; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Mr Rob Roberts*

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be  
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