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TO

Amend the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 so as to alter the method used in Great Britain and Gibraltar for electing members of the European Parliament.

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 Repeal of section 2 of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002

Section 2 of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 is repealed.

2 Voting systems in Great Britain and Gibraltar to elect members of the European Parliament

- (1) The system of election of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in an electoral region other than Northern Ireland is to be a regional open list system. 5
- (2) The Secretary of State must by regulations—
 - (a) make provision for the nominations of registered parties in relation to an election in such a region, and
 - (b) require a nomination under paragraph (a) to be accompanied by a list of candidates numbering no more than the MEPs to be elected for the region. 10
- (3) The system of election must comply with the following conditions.
- (4) A vote may be cast for a candidate listed under a registered party or an individual candidate named on the ballot paper. 15
- (5) The first seat is to be allocated to the party or individual candidate with the greatest number of votes.
- (6) The second and subsequent seats are to be allocated in the same way, except that the number of votes given to a party to which one or more seats have already been allocated are to be divided by the number of seats allocated plus one. 20

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- (7) In allocating the second or any subsequent seat there are to be disregarded any votes given to—
- (a) a party to which there has already been allocated a number of seats equal to the number of names on the party’s list of candidates, and
 - (b) an individual candidate to whom a seat has already been allocated. 5
- (8) Seats allocated to a party are to be filled by the persons named on the party’s list of candidates in the order of those who have received the highest number of votes.
- (9) For the purposes of subsection (6) fractions are to be taken into account.
- (10) In this section “registered party” means a party registered under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. 10

3 Citation, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2012.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of three months beginning with the date on which it is passed. 15
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Gibraltar.

European Parliamentary Elections Bill [HL]

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Lord Teverson

Ordered to be Printed, 11th June 2012

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by The Stationery Office Limited
£1.50

HL Bill 31

(21309)

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ISBN 978-0-10-843589-8



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