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Make provision to allow European Union citizens who are resident in the United Kingdom to vote in parliamentary elections and to become members of Parliament; 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 Entitlement of European Union citizens to vote in parliamentary elections**

- (1) The Representation of the People Act 1983 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 1(1)(c) (parliamentary electors), after “a citizen of the Republic of Ireland” insert “or a relevant citizen of the Union”.
- (3) In section 4(1)(c) (entitlement to be registered as parliamentary or local government elector), after “a citizen of the Republic of Ireland” insert “or a relevant citizen of the Union”. 5

**2 Entitlement of European Union citizens to become members of Parliament**

- (1) A relevant citizen of the Union who is resident in the United Kingdom has the same entitlement as a citizen of the United Kingdom to stand for election to the House of Commons. 10
- (2) A relevant citizen of the Union who is resident in the United Kingdom has the same entitlement as a citizen of the United Kingdom to be appointed to the House of Lords.
- (3) For the purposes of this section— 15
  - “a relevant citizen of the Union” has the meaning given by section 202 of the Representation of the People Act 1983; and
  - “resident in the United Kingdom” is construed in accordance with Part I of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

**3 Duty on Electoral Commission to provide information**

The Electoral Commission must make arrangements to inform any persons affected by section 1 or 2 of their new rights under those sections.

**4 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to the whole of the United Kingdom. 5
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the European Union Citizens (Electoral Rights) Act 2015.

# European Union Citizens (Electoral Rights) Bill [HL]

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*Lord Balfe*

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