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TO

Amend the franchise for referendums in the United Kingdom to include all citizens of 16 years of age and over.

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 Reduction of the voting age for referendums

After section 2 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, insert—

“2A Referendums

- (1) A person is entitled to vote as an elector at a referendum held under Part VII of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in any constituency if on the date of the poll he— 5
 - (a) is registered in either—
 - (i) the register of local government electors for that area, or
 - (ii) a register of young voters maintained by virtue of regulations under subsection (2); 10
 - (b) is not subject to any legal incapacity to vote (age apart);
 - (c) is a Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a relevant citizen of the Union; and
 - (d) is of voting age (that is, 16 years or over).
- (2) For the purposes of this section, the Secretary of State must by regulations provide for the establishment and maintenance of a register of 16 and 17 year-olds in each area for which there is already a register of local government electors.” 15

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to the whole of the United Kingdom. 20
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Referendums (Franchise) Act 2015.

Referendums (Franchise) Bill [HL]

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Lord Tyler

Ordered to be Printed, 9th June 2015

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LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx