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TO

Make provision about the holding of referenda in relation to voting systems in local government elections.

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 Referendum on voting system for local government elections

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within twelve months of the passing of this Act, introduce a Bill to the United Kingdom Parliament to make provision for referenda to be held in any local government electoral area in the United Kingdom on the introduction of a proportional representation system for local government elections, and for the implementation of such a system. 5
- (2) “Local government electoral areas” means unitary authorities, county councils, district councils and borough councils.
- (3) The Bill must provide that a referendum within the meaning of subsection (1) is to be held in a local government electoral area if— 10
 - (a) there has been a petition to the Government or to the United Kingdom Parliament which is signed by at least 10% of the electors in that local area, requesting a referendum; and
 - (b) there has been a resolution by the local government body for that area that a referendum should be held. 15
- (4) The Bill must provide that a referendum within the meaning of subsection (1) is held on the same day as the local government elections for that area.

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England only.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed. 20
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Local Government Elections (Referendum) Act 2016.

Local Government Elections (Referendum) Bill [HL]

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Lord Balfe

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