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Make provision about election expenditure by candidates and political parties and about nominations as a parliamentary candidate; to abolish deposits; to confer powers on the Electoral Commission; and for connected purposes.

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 Increase in candidate expenses limit at General Elections

- (1) In section 76(2)(a)(i) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (maximum amount of a candidate's expenses at a parliamentary general election in a county constituency) —
- (a) for “£8,700” substitute “£20,000”, and 5
- (b) for “9p” substitute “20p”.
- (2) In section 76(2)(a)(ii) of that Act (maximum amount of a candidate's expenses at a parliamentary general election in a borough constituency) —
- (a) for “£8,700” substitute “£20,000”, and
- (b) for “6p” substitute “20p”. 10

2 Definition of candidate election expenses

- (1) Schedule 4A to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (election expenses) is amended as follows.
- (2) In paragraph 1, after “(whatever the medium used” insert “, and in the case of digital advertising, subject to paragraph 2”. 15
- (3) For paragraph 2, substitute —
- “2 Unsolicited campaign material or telephone calls addressed to or aimed at electors, including but not limited to the costs detailed in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), and which meet the criteria set out in sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) — 20
- (a) design and printing costs and other costs in connection with preparing, producing or distributing unsolicited material

	(whether addressed to persons by name or intended for delivery or display to electors or households within any particular area), including where relevant the cost of postage;	
	(b) the cost of displaying digital advertising;	
	(c) the cost of making unsolicited telephone calls to electors, or to those entitled to be registered to be electors;	5
	(d) either –	
	(i) the material, digital advertising or telephone calls identify the candidate, or	
	(ii) the material, digital advertising or telephone calls are aimed at voters in the specific electoral area in which the candidate is standing and are aimed to promote or secure the election of that candidate, as defined but not limited by sub-paragraph (e);	10
	(e) material, digital advertising or telephone calls are aimed to promote or secure the election of a candidate if –	15
	(i) material is addressed to any person registered or entitled to be registered (whether addressed to them by name or intended for delivery to households within any particular area) in the constituency for which that candidate is standing,	20
	(ii) digital advertising is displayed on the basis of the postcode in which electors, or those entitled to be registered as electors, reside, or	
	(iii) the list of telephone calls to be made is drawn up on the basis of, or with any reference to, in which constituency or constituencies those who will receive the calls reside.”	25
3	Nomination and deposit	
	Schedule 1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 is amended as follows –	30
	(a) in paragraph 1 of Rule 7, for “eight” substitute “98”;	
	(b) omit Rule 9 (deposit).	
4	Future candidates	
	In this Act, “candidates” includes future candidates, whether identifiable or not.	35
5	Functions of the Electoral Commission	
(1)	The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make such provision as to the functions of the Electoral Commission as the Secretary of State considers necessary or desirable for the purposes of giving effect to this Act.	40
(2)	Regulations under subsection (1) may include provision which in particular enables the Electoral Commission to take such steps as are necessary to ensure compliance with such limits on expenditure (of whatever description) as are imposed by virtue of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and this Act.	45

- (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

6 Provision for review

- (1) The Secretary of State must make arrangements— 5
 - (a) for a committee to carry out a periodic review of the effects of this Act on expenditure for political purposes; and
 - (b) for the findings of the review to be published.
- (2) Findings must be published under subsection (1)(b)— 10
 - (a) no later than 1 January 2021; and
 - (b) no later than two years after each successive date of publication.

7 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Elections (Candidates' Expenditure and Nominations) Act 2020. 15

Elections (Candidates' Expenditure and Nominations) Bill [HL]

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Lord Tyler

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