

Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

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TO

Fix the date of the next general election and all subsequent general elections; to forbid the dissolution of Parliament otherwise than in accordance with this Act; to allow the House of Commons to change the day of the week on which a general election is held; 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 Dates of future general elections

- (1) The next general election shall take place on 7th May 2009.
- (2) Each subsequent general election shall take place on the first Thursday in May in the fourth year after the previous general election.
- (3) This section is subject to section 3. 5

2 Dissolution of Parliament

- (1) This present Parliament shall be dissolved on 7th April 2009.
- (2) This present Parliament may not be dissolved otherwise than as provided in subsection (1).
- (3) Each subsequent Parliament shall be dissolved 30 days before the general election provided for in section 1(2). 10
- (4) No subsequent Parliament may be dissolved otherwise than as provided in subsection (3).

3 Power of House of Commons to vary date of general election

- (1) The House of Commons may, by resolution, appoint a day of the week other than Thursday as the day on which a general election is to take place. 15
- (2) The power conferred by subsection (1) may not be used to set a date for a general election—

- (a) earlier, or
 - (b) more than 6 days later,
- than the date provided for by section 1(1) or 1(2).

4 Amendment of Representation of the People Acts

- (1) The Secretary of State may, by order made by statutory instrument, make such amendments to the Representation of the People Acts as appear to him to be necessary or expedient in consequence of this Act. 5
- (2) An order under subsection (1) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

5 Short title, commencement and extent 10

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2007.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to Northern Ireland.

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*Presented by David Howarth
supported by
Mr David Heath, Simon Hughes,
Chris Huhne, Danny Alexander,
Lynne Featherstone, Paul Rowen,
Mr Paul Burstow, Mr Nick Clegg
and Norman Baker.*

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