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TO

Reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies; amend the rules governing the number of electors in each constituency; 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 Amendment of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986

- (1) The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (c. 56) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 3(7), for “the rules in paragraph 4” substitute “the rule in paragraph 8”.
- (3) For Schedule 2 substitute—

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“SCHEDULE 2

RULES FOR REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

The rules

- 1 The number of constituencies in the United Kingdom shall not be greater than or substantially less than 581. 10
- 2 Every constituency shall return a single member.
- 3 There shall continue to be a constituency which shall include the whole of the City of London and the name of which shall refer to the City of London.
- 4 A constituency shall be located wholly within one of— 15
 - (a) England;
 - (b) Wales;
 - (c) Scotland; or
 - (d) Northern Ireland.

- 5 The number of constituencies in each of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, shall be calculated in each case by multiplying the electoral proportion of each part of the United Kingdom by the number of constituencies in the United Kingdom as determined by the Electoral Commission in accordance with rule 1. 5
- 6 Where the calculations under rule 5 lead to the total number of constituencies exceeding 581 the number of constituencies in that part of the United Kingdom with the largest electorate shall be reduced by one.
- 7 Within each part of the United Kingdom, the electorate of any constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, and shall in any case be no greater than 105% and no less than 95% of the electoral quota. 10
- 8 So far as is practicable in accordance with rules 1 to 7, the Electoral Commission shall have regard to— 15
- (a) county and borough boundaries in England and Wales;
 - (b) the boundaries of local authority areas in Scotland; and
 - (c) the boundaries of wards in Northern Ireland.
- 9 In the application of these rules to the United Kingdom— 20
- (a) the expression “electoral proportion” means a number obtained by dividing the electorate of a constituent part of the United Kingdom by the electorate of the whole of the United Kingdom; 20
 - (b) the expression “electoral quota” means a number obtained by dividing the total electorate of each part of the United Kingdom by the number of constituencies in it existing on the enumeration date; 25
 - (c) the expression “electorate” means— 30
 - (i) in relation to a constituency, the number of persons whose names appear on the register of parliamentary electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for that constituency, 30
 - (ii) in relation to the part of the United Kingdom, the aggregate electorate as defined in paragraph (a) above of all the constituencies in that part; 35
 - (d) the expression “enumeration date” means, in relation to any report by the Electoral Commission (or one made by a Boundary Committee for the purposes of it) under this Act, the date on which the notice with respect to that report is published in accordance with section 5(1) of this Act. 40
- 10 In this Schedule, a reference to a rule followed by a number is a reference to the rule set out in the correspondingly numbered paragraph of this Schedule.”
- 2 Short title, commencement and extent 45**
- (1) This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Constituencies (Amendment) Act 2007, and shall be included among the Acts which may be cited as the Representation of the People Acts.

- (2) This Act shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to Northern Ireland.

Parliamentary Constituencies (Amendment) Bill

[HL]

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Lord Baker of Dorking

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