Electoral Integrity Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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Electoral Integrity Bill

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BILL

Make provision for changes to the voting system to improve its fairness, participation and representation and to control election expenditure; and for connected purposes.

B E 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 Launch of Voter Registration Drive

- (1) A voter registration drive is launched with a particular focus on:
 - a) registering young voters and voters from ethnic minority communities
 - b) facilitating the enrolment of voters

2 Introduction of PR voting systems

(1) The relevant Act is amended to ensure a PR system is used for UK Parliament elections and other English elections.

3 Extension of the Franchise to 16 and 17 Year Olds

(1) The relevant Act is amended to ensure that 16 and 17 year olds are able to vote in UK Parliament elections and other English elections.

4 Improvements to Overseas Voting Processes

(1) An assessment is conducted into allowing overseas voters to vote in UK embassies and other locations and to print ballot papers and postal votes.

5 Limits on Party Spending

(1) The relevant Act is amended to reduce the national cap on party spending and restrict the maximum size of annual individual donations

6 Transparency of Political Advertising

(1) The relevant Act is amended to introduce a requirement for the funders of all political social media advertising to be identified.

7 Extend the Powers of the Electoral Commission

(1) The relevant Act is amended to extend the powers of the Electoral Commission to

impose higher fines and take responsibility for candidate finance laws.

8 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
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- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Electoral Integrity Act 2021.

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Presented by Unlock Democracy supported by Electoral Reform Society and FairVote

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