



# Representation of the People Act 1985

## 1985 CHAPTER 50

An Act to amend the law relating to parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom and local government elections in Great Britain, to provide for combining polls taken on the same date at such elections and elections to the Assembly of the European Communities, to extend the franchise at elections to that Assembly, to amend the law relating to the effect of the demise of the Crown on the summoning and duration of a new Parliament and to repeal section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act 1918. [16th July 1985]

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:—

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** By [European Communities \(Amendment\) Act 1986](#) (c. 58, SIF 29:5), **s. 3(1)-(3)**, in the long title, for the references to the Assembly of the European Communities and the Assembly there are substituted retrospectively references to the European Parliament
- C2** Act: references to constituency are to be construed as mentioned in [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986](#) (c. 56, SIF 42), **s. 1(2)**
- C3** Act amended (N.I.) by [S.I. 1986/1091](#), **reg. 51(6)**
- C4** Act amended (E.W.) by [S.I. 1986/1081](#), **reg. 51(6)**
- C5** Act applied (with modifications) (31.7.1997) by [1997 c. 61, s. 3, Sch. 3 para. 13](#) Table 3  
Act applied (with modifications) (18.3.1998) by [S.I. 1998/746, art. 12, Sch. 1](#), Table 3  
Act applied in part (with modifications) (22.5.1998) by [S.I. 1998/1287, art. 3\(1\)\(3\), Sch. 1](#)  
Act applied (with modifications) (E.W.) (1.2.2002) by [S.I. 2002/185, art. 3\(2\), Sch. 2](#)
- C6** Act amended (16.2.2001) by [2000 c. 41, s. 7\(2\)\(e\)](#) (with [s. 156\(6\)](#)); [S.I. 2001/222, art. 2, Sch. 1 Pt. I](#) (subject to transitional provisions in [Sch. 1 Pt. II](#))  
Act applied (2.4.2001) by [S.I. 2001/1298, reg. 10\(4\)](#)
- C7** Act (except ss. 6-10): functions transferred (25.11.2002) by [S.I. 2002/2626, art. 11\(1\), Sch. 1](#) (with [arts. 12, 13](#))
- C8** Act: functions transferred (19.8.2003) by [The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs Order 2003](#) ([S.I. 2003/1887](#)), [art. 4, Sch. 1](#)

**Changes to legislation:** Representation of the People Act 1985, Introductory Text is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- C9** Act: Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22), s. 46(1)-(4) to be construed as one with this Act (1.1.2007 for E.W.S., 1.7.2008 for N.I.) by virtue of Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22), ss. 46(5), 77; S.I. 2006/3412, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 14(v) (subject to art. 6 and with Sch. 2); S.I. 2008/1316, arts. 2(2), 4(s)
- C10** Act: power to amend conferred (1.1.2007) by Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22), ss. 72(2)(b), 77; S.I. 2006/3412, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 10 (subject to art. 6 and with Sch. 2)
- C11** Act: power to modify conferred by Government of Wales Act 2006 (c. 32), s. 4(4), the amending provision coming into force immediately after "the 2007 election" (held on 3.5.2007) subject to s. 161(4)(5) of the amending Act, which provides for certain provisions to come into force for specified purposes immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) - see ss. 46, 161(1)(4)(5) of the amending Act (with Sch. 11 para. 22)
- C12** Act: power to modify conferred by Government of Wales Act 2006 (c. 32), s. 13(4)(5), the amending provision coming into force immediately after "the 2007 election" (held on 3.5.2007) subject to s. 161(4)(5) of the amending Act, which provides for certain provisions to come into force for specified purposes immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) - see ss. 46, 161(1)(4)(5) of the amending Act (with Sch. 11 para. 22)
- C13** Act applied (with modifications) (27.3.2007) by The Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1024), reg. 3, Sch. 2 (as amended (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2018/1310, reg. 1, Sch. 2 para. 7)
- C14** Act: certain functions made exercisable concurrently (18.8.2010) by Lord President of the Council Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1837), arts. 1(2), 3
- C15** Act: power to apply or incorporate (with modifications) conferred (15.9.2011) by Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), s. 58(1)-(3)(7)
- C16** Act: power to apply or incorporate (with modifications) conferred (25.4.2012) by Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), s. 54(2)-(5), 157(1); S.I. 2012/1129, art. 2(b)
- C17** Act: functions transferred (22.6.2015) by The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1376), arts. 1(2), 3(1), Sch. 1 (with art. 9)
- C18** Act: functions transferred (9.11.2016) by The Transfer of Functions (Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/997), arts. 1(2), 3(1), Sch. 1(b) (with arts. 3(2), 6, 12)
- C19** Act applied (with modifications) (31.1.2017) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/67), art. 3(2)-(4), Sch. 2 (as amended: (31.12.2020) by S.I. 2018/1310, reg. 1, Sch. 2 para. 14; and (7.2.2024) by S.I. 2024/131, regs. 1(3), 12(3))
- C20** Act: power to apply (with modifications) conferred by 1998 c. 46, s. 12(4)(5) (as substituted (18.5.2017) by Scotland Act 2016 (c. 11), ss. 4(1), 72(4)(a); S.I. 2017/608, reg. 2(1)(b))

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 15(1)(d)(e) inserted by [2012 c. 11 s. 2\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 15(3ZA) inserted by [2012 c. 11 s. 2\(4\)](#)