

*These notes refer to the House Of Commons (Removal of Clergy Disqualification) Act 2001 (c.13) which received Royal Assent on 11 May 2001*

# HOUSE OF COMMONS (REMOVAL OF CLERGY DISQUALIFICATION) ACT 2001

---

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

#### *Section 1: removal of disqualification of clergy*

10. This section establishes (in *subsection (1)*) that a person who has been ordained or who is a Minister of religion is not disqualified from being elected to or sitting in the House of Commons. It accordingly displaces the House of Commons (Clergy Disqualification) Act 1801 and section 9 of the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829, and ensures that any other rule of law which might prevent clergy sitting ceases to have effect. It makes provision, however, (in *subsection (2)*) for the continuing disqualification of any bishop who sits in the House of Lords as a Lord Spiritual. *Subsection (3)* then introduces two Schedules, which contain consequential amendments and repeals of statutory provisions relating to clergy disqualification.