

EU Referendum (Preparation) Bill

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Enable preparations for a referendum about the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union.

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 Preparatory work

(1) The Electoral Commission may take any action that it thinks appropriate in order to prepare for the holding of a referendum in May 2019 about the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union.

(2) For the purposes of this section the Electoral Commission must assume that the ballot papers will include (subject to any recommendations the Commission may make after carrying out tests)—

(a) the following preamble—

“The UK Government and the European Union have negotiated terms for the UK to leave the EU, following the vote in the June 2016 referendum. The terms were published on Monday 26 November 2018 with the title “Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.”;

(b) the following question—

“Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union on the negotiated terms?”; and

(c) the following alternative answers—

“Remain a member of the European Union”

“Leave the European Union on the negotiated terms”.

(3) The Electoral Commission may make recommendations as to the modifications (if any) of the arrangements set out in the European Union Referendum Act 2015 to be applied in relation to the referendum.

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2 Commencement, Extent and Royal Assent

- (1) This Act comes into force on Royal Assent.
 - (2) This Act extends to the whole of the United Kingdom and to Gibraltar.
 - (3) This Act may be cited as the EU Referendum (Preparation) Act 2018.
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