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## **Review of proposed changes to administrative arrangements for elections and referendums**

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will review the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Improving Electoral Administration) Bill 2012, which was introduced into the House last week.

The Bill implements the Government response to Recommendations 3, 9, 10, 11, 15, 29 and 30 of the committee's report entitled *The 2010 Federal Election: Report on the conduct of the election and related matters*.

The Bill contains provisions that will:

- set out the procedures to be followed when a ballot-box is opened prematurely, that is, before the close of the poll, other than in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Electoral Act and Referendum Act;
- require ballot papers included in a ballot-box that is opened prematurely to be excluded from scrutiny;
- remove the requirement under the Electoral Act and Referendum Act for an applicant for a pre-poll ordinary vote to complete and sign a certificate;
- provide that pre-poll voting cannot commence earlier than 4 days after the date fixed for declaration of nominations for any type of election or by-election;
- brings forward the deadline for applications for postal votes by one day from the Thursday before polling day to the Wednesday before polling day;
- provide for further fixed periods of time to be provided to the augmented Electoral Commission (as defined in section 70 of the Electoral Act) to complete its inquiries into objections against proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries;
- amend the Taxation Administration Act to allow the Commissioner of Taxation and other taxation officers to provide some forms of taxpayer information to the Australian Electoral Commission for the purposes of administering the Electoral Act and Referendum Act; and
- make a number of related minor and technical amendments.

The Chair of the committee, Daryl Melham MP, said the committee will examine the adequacy of the Bill in achieving its policy objectives.

Stakeholders, members of the public and interested groups are invited to make **submissions to the inquiry by Friday, 21 December 2012**.

The Bill, Explanatory Memorandum and information on the inquiry are available from the committee's webpage: <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>.

**For media comment:** Please contact the Committee Chair, Daryl Melham MP on 02 6277 2054 (Parliament House office) or 02 9774 2111 (Electoral office).

**For general information:** Contact the secretariat on 02 6277 2374 or [jscem@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscem@aph.gov.au).