



Parliament of Australia

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

FACT SHEET

Advisory Report

Issued: 19 March 2012

Chair: Mr Daryl Melham MP

FACT SHEET: DIRECT ENROLMENT

Advisory Report on the *Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Protecting Elector Participation) Bill 2012*

The Bill proposes significant changes to the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) enrolment powers and the treatment of electors who have been removed from the roll under the objection process. The key changes are outlined below.

Features	Current legislation	Proposed changes										
Direct enrolment	A person must complete, sign and submit a form to the AEC before they can be placed on the Commonwealth electoral roll.	In addition to acting on applications, the AEC will be able to directly enrol people based on data received from third party sources (Centrelink and Roads and Traffic Authorities). No form or signature is required.										
Reinstatement to the roll when removed by objection action	People removed from the roll under the objection process cannot be reinstated to the roll.	Reintroduce the arrangements that were in place prior to the 2007 federal election. People removed by objection action can be reinstated to the roll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the address prior to their removal from the roll if they are at the same address; At their latest known address if it is a different address but in the same division; or At their latest known address if it is in a different division but in the same state or territory. People who have moved interstate will not be reinstated to the roll.										
Admitting provisional votes to the count	If a person attends a polling place and is not found on the roll they can cast a provisional vote. If the AEC has removed them from the roll due to an 'error' or 'mistake of fact' then their votes may be admitted to further scrutiny. Removal from the roll by objection action (when the AEC has reason to believe they have changed address) does not currently count as an error or mistake of fact.	Reintroduce the arrangements that were in place prior to the 2007 federal election. The provisional votes of people who have been removed by objection action may be admitted to further scrutiny:										
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>If their current address is:</th> <th>Votes that can be accepted:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Same as that prior to removal</td> <td>House and Senate votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Different address but same division</td> <td>House and Senate votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Different division but same state</td> <td>Senate vote only</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In a different state</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If their current address is:	Votes that can be accepted:	Same as that prior to removal	House and Senate votes	Different address but same division	House and Senate votes	Different division but same state	Senate vote only	In a different state	None
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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.