



Representation of the People Act 1985

1985 CHAPTER 50

Voting at parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom and local government elections in Great Britain

8 Proxies at elections

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, any person is capable of being appointed proxy to vote for another (in this section and section 9 of this Act referred to as " the elector ") at any parliamentary or local government election and may vote in pursuance of the appointment.
- (2) The elector cannot have more than one person at a time appointed as proxy to vote for him at parliamentary elections (whether in the same constituency or elsewhere).
- (3) A person is not capable of being appointed to vote, or voting, as proxy at a parliamentary or local government election—
 - (a) if he is subject to any legal incapacity (age apart) to vote at that election as an elector, or
 - (b) if he is neither a Commonwealth citizen nor a citizen of the Republic of Ireland.
- (4) A person is not capable of voting as proxy at any such election unless on the date of the poll he has attained the age of eighteen.
- (5) A person is not entitled to vote as proxy at the same parliamentary election in any constituency, or at the same local government election in any electoral area, on behalf of more than two electors of whom that person is not the husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild.
- (6) Where the elector applies to the registration officer for the appointment of a proxy to vote for him at parliamentary elections, at local government elections or at both for an indefinite period, the registration officer shall make the appointment if the application meets the prescribed requirements and he is satisfied that the elector is or will be—
 - (a) registered in the register of electors for elections in respect of which the application is made, and

- (b) shown in the record kept under section 6 of this Act as voting by proxy at such elections,
and that the proxy is capable of being and willing to be appointed to vote as proxy at such elections.
- (7) Where the elector applies to the registration officer for the appointment of a proxy to vote for him at a particular parliamentary or local government election, the registration officer shall make the appointment if the application meets the prescribed requirements and he is satisfied that the elector is or will be-
- (a) registered in the register of parliamentary or, as the case may be, local government electors for that election, and
 - (b) entitled to vote by proxy at that election by virtue of an application under section 7 of this Act,
- and that the proxy is capable of being and willing to be appointed.
- (8) The appointment of a proxy under this section is to be made by means of a proxy paper issued by the registration officer.
- (9) The appointment may be cancelled by the elector by giving notice to the registration officer and shall also cease to be in force—
- (a) where the appointment related to a parliamentary election or parliamentary elections, on the issue of a proxy paper appointing a different person to vote for him at a parliamentary election or parliamentary elections (whether in the same constituency or elsewhere), and
 - (b) where the appointment related to a local government election or local government elections, on the issue of a proxy paper appointing a different person to vote for him at a local government election or local government elections in the same electoral area.
- (10) Subject to subsection (9) above, the appointment shall remain in force—
- (a) in the case of an appointment for a particular election, for that election, and
 - (b) in any other case, while the elector is shown as voting by proxy in the record kept under section 6 of this Act in pursuance of the same application under that section.
- (11) Stamp duty is not chargeable on any instrument appointing a proxy under this section.