

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013

EXPLANATORY NOTES

These notes are circulated for the information of Members with the approval of the Member in charge of the Bill, Hon David Anderson, MHK

Introduction

At its sitting in June 2013, Tynwald approved the constituency boundaries as set out in Appendices C1 –C12 of the Third Report to Tynwald of the Boundary Review Committee upon the Boundaries of the Constituencies for Elections to the House of Keys and agreed that the Representation of the People Act 1995 and other relevant legislation be amended accordingly in time for the 2016 General Election.

A further recommendation of the Boundary Review Committee was approved by Tynwald in December 2011. Tynwald accepted the principle of regular review of the number and boundaries of the constituencies and agreed to the establishment, by the Governor in Council, of a permanent independent electoral committee or commission following each second general election anniversary. Such body must report to Tynwald no later than eighteen months after its appointment but be given powers to report more frequently to Tynwald if specifically required.

General Note

This Bill promoted by the Council of Ministers, is intended to introduce amendments to the Representation of the People Act 1995 to make new provision for an Electoral Commission and to make provision for reducing the number of constituencies and specifying the boundaries of the new constituencies.

CLAUSE 1

Gives the resulting Act its short title.

CLAUSE 2

Identifies that the Act (which comes into operation on announcement to Tynwald) applies to and from the general election of 2016.

CLAUSE 3

Substitutes new sections 11 and 11A of the Representation of the People Act 1995 to provide for an Electoral Commission and for new constituencies. Firstly, provision is made in the substituted section 11 for an Electoral Commission to be appointed by the Governor in Council to review the number and boundaries of constituencies or any other electoral matter as directed by Tynwald and report thereon to Tynwald. The Electoral Commission is taken to have been dissolved following the issue of its

final report to Tynwald. Secondly, provision is made in section 11A for the reduction in the number of constituencies from 15 to 12 with the boundaries of each constituency being as defined in maps approved by Tynwald in June 2013.

CLAUSE 4

Provides for the Act to cease to have effect on the day following its promulgation or on the day following the general election of the House of Keys, whichever is the later. The amendments in section 3 will continue to have effect.