



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

BILLS

**Electoral and Referendum Amendment
(Improving Electoral Administration) Bill 2013**

In Committee

SPEECH

Monday, 18 March 2013

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

Date Monday, 18 March 2013
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Questioner
Speaker McLucas, Sen Jan

Source Senate
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Senator McLUCAS (Queensland—Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister) (13:06): The government will not be supporting the opposition on this matter. The requirement for electors to sign a certificate declaring that they are qualified to cast an early vote prior to being issued with an ordinary prepoll vote came into effect at the 2010 election. Similar requirements have been removed from a number of state and territory jurisdictions, with the aim of speeding up the issuing of ballots. There is no evidence available to suggest that this change impacts on either the number of electors applying to vote by prepoll or the overall integrity of the process when compared to prepoll voting at previous elections. What we are doing today is moving to identify prepoll voting as ordinary voting. In order to treat these prepoll votes as ordinary votes, this requirement for the signing of the certificate is not required.