These notes refer to the Scotland Act 1998 (c.46)
which received Royal Assent on 19th November 1998

SCOTLAND ACT 1998

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY
SECTION 6: Poll for regional members

Purpose and Effect

This section is concerned with the election of regional members. It allows electors to cast a vote, in a poll for regional members, either in favour of a registered political party that has submitted a regional list or an individual candidate.

General

This section is linked to sections 7 and 8 on the return of regional members.

Parliamentary Consideration

Stage	*Date*	*Column*
CC	28-Jan-98	413
CR	12-May-98	225
LR	22-Oct-98	1654

Details of Provisions

Subsection (1) states that this section and sections 7 and 8 are about the return of regional members at a general election.

Subsection (2) provides for the holding of polls in each constituency, at which an elector may cast a vote (a "regional vote") for either a registered political party which has put forward a regional list or for an individual candidate for return as a regional member for that region.

The voting system allows the electors to vote for a party that has submitted a regional list but not a particular individual named in it. The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/787) for the rules relating to the publication of the names of those standing in the regional polls.

Subsection (3) provides that the right to vote for a registered political party list or individual in a region is in addition to the right to vote for a constituency candidate. Electors are, therefore, entitled to cast 2 votes but there is no obligation on them to do so.