



Northern Ireland Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 47

PART II

LEGISLATIVE POWERS

Scrutiny and stages of Bills

10 Scrutiny by Presiding Officer

- (1) Standing orders shall ensure that a Bill is not introduced in the Assembly if the Presiding Officer decides that any provision of it would not be within the legislative competence of the Assembly.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3)—
 - (a) the Presiding Officer shall consider a Bill both on its introduction and before the Assembly enters on its final stage; and
 - (b) if he considers that the Bill contains—
 - (i) any provision which deals with an excepted matter and is ancillary to other provisions (whether in the Bill or previously enacted) dealing with reserved or transferred matters; or
 - (ii) any provision which deals with a reserved matter,he shall refer it to the Secretary of State; and
 - (c) the Assembly shall not proceed with the Bill or, as the case may be, enter on its final stage unless—
 - (i) the Secretary of State's consent to the consideration of the Bill by the Assembly is signified; or
 - (ii) the Assembly is informed that in his opinion the Bill does not contain any such provision as is mentioned in paragraph (b)(i) or (ii).
- (3) Subsection (2)(b) and (c) shall not apply—
 - (a) where, in the opinion of the Presiding Officer, each provision of the Bill which deals with an excepted or reserved matter is ancillary to other provisions

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (whether in the Bill or previously enacted) dealing with transferred matters only; or
- (b) on the introduction of a Bill, where the Bill has been endorsed with a statement that the Secretary of State has consented to the Assembly considering the Bill.
- (4) In this section and section 14 “final stage”, in relation to a Bill, means the stage in the Assembly’s proceedings at which the Bill falls finally to be passed or rejected.