



# Northern Ireland Act 1998

## 1998 CHAPTER 47

### PART II

#### LEGISLATIVE POWERS

##### *Scrutiny and stages of Bills*

### 13 Stages of Bills

- (1) Standing orders shall include provision—
  - (a) for general debate on a Bill with an opportunity for members to vote on its general principles;
  - (b) for the consideration of, and an opportunity for members to vote on, the details of a Bill; and
  - (c) for a final stage at which a Bill can be passed or rejected but not amended.
- (2) Standing orders may, in relation to different types of Bill, modify provisions made in pursuance of subsection (1)(a) or (b).
- (3) Standing orders—
  - (a) shall include provision for establishing such a committee as is mentioned in paragraph 11 of Strand One of the Belfast Agreement;
  - (b) may include provision for the details of a Bill to be considered by the committee in such circumstances as may be specified in the orders.
- (4) Standing orders shall include provision—
  - (a) requiring the Presiding Officer to send a copy of each Bill, as soon as reasonably practicable after introduction, to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; and
  - (b) enabling the Assembly to ask the Commission, where the Assembly thinks fit, to advise whether a Bill is compatible with human rights (including the Convention rights).

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (5) Standing orders shall provide for an opportunity for the reconsideration of a Bill after its passing if (and only if)—
- (a) the Judicial Committee decide that any provision of the Bill would not be within the legislative competence of the Assembly;
  - (b) a reference made in relation to a provision of the Bill under section 11 has been withdrawn following a request for withdrawal under section 12;
  - (c) a decision is made in relation to the Bill under section 14(4) or (5); or
  - (d) a motion under section 15(1) is passed by either House of Parliament.
- (6) Standing orders shall, in particular, ensure that any Bill amended on reconsideration is subject to a final stage at which it can be approved or rejected but not amended.
- (7) References in subsection (5) and other provisions of this Act to the passing of a Bill shall, in the case of a Bill which has been amended on reconsideration, be read as references to the approval of the Bill.