



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).

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Section 13. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) Standing orders shall provide for an opportunity for the reconsideration of a Bill after its passing if (and only if)—
- (a) the [^{F1}Supreme Court decides] that any provision of the Bill would not be within the legislative competence of the Assembly;
 - ^{F2}(b)
 - (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.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 13(5)(a) substituted (1.10.2009) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\), ss. 40, 148, Sch. 9 para. 111](#); S.I. 2009/1604, [art. 2\(a\)\(d\)](#)
- F2** S. 13(5)(b) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018 \(c. 16\), s. 25\(4\), Sch. 3 para. 53](#) (with s. 19, Sch. 8 para. 37); S.I. 2020/1622, [reg. 3\(1\)](#) (with regs. 10, 16, 22)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Section 13.