



# Scotland Act 1998

## 1998 CHAPTER 46

### PART I

#### THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

##### *Presiding Officer and administration*

#### **19 Presiding Officer**

- (1) The Parliament shall, at its first meeting following a general election, elect from among its members a Presiding Officer and two deputies.
- (2) A person elected Presiding Officer or deputy shall hold office until the conclusion of the next election for Presiding Officer under subsection (1) unless he previously resigns, ceases to be a member of the Parliament otherwise than by virtue of a dissolution or is removed from office by resolution of the Parliament.
- (3) If the Presiding Officer or a deputy ceases to hold office before the Parliament is dissolved, the Parliament shall elect another from among its members to fill his place.
- (4) The Presiding Officer's functions may be exercised by a deputy if the office of Presiding Officer is vacant or the Presiding Officer is for any reason unable to act.
- (5) The Presiding Officer may (subject to standing orders) authorise any deputy to exercise functions on his behalf.
- (6) Standing orders may include provision as to the participation (including voting) of the Presiding Officer and deputies in the proceedings of the Parliament.
- (7) The validity of any act of the Presiding Officer or a deputy is not affected by any defect in his election.