



Northern Ireland Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 47

PART IV

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Disqualification

36 Disqualification.

- (1) The ^{M1}Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 shall have effect as if any reference to the Assembly established under section 1 of the ^{M2}Northern Ireland Assembly Act 1973 were a reference to the Assembly.
- (2) No recommendation shall be made to Her Majesty to make an Order in Council under section 3(1) of the Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 (power to amend Schedule 1) without the consent of the Secretary of State.
- (3) A person who is Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant or Lieutenant for a county or county borough in Northern Ireland is disqualified for membership of the Assembly for a constituency comprising the whole or part of the county or county borough.
- (4) A person is disqualified for membership of the Assembly if he is disqualified for membership of the House of Commons otherwise than under the ^{M3}House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975.
- [^{F1}(4A) A person who is a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights is disqualified for membership of the Assembly unless the person is resident for the purposes of section 4(3) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 in—
 - (a) an electoral area in Great Britain, or
 - (b) a district electoral area in Northern Ireland.]
- ^{F2}(5)
- (6) A person is not disqualified for membership of the Assembly by virtue of subsection (4) by reason only that—

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- (a) he is a peer ^{F3}. . . ; or
[^{F4}(b) he is a Lord Spiritual.]

(7) A person is not disqualified for membership of the Assembly by virtue of subsection (4) by reason only that he is disqualified under section 3 of the Act of Settlement (certain persons born out of the Kingdom) if he is a [^{F5}citizen of the European Union][^{F5}qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights].

[^{F6}(8) In this section, “qualifying EU citizen” and “EU citizen with retained rights” have the same meaning as in the Representation of the People Act 1983 (see sections [203A](#) and [203B](#) of that Act).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 36(4A) inserted (1.11.2023 for specified purposes) by [Elections Act 2022 \(c. 37\)](#), s. 67(1), [Sch. 8 para. 10\(2\)](#); S.I. 2023/1145, reg. 3(i)(v)
- F2** S. 36(5) repealed (30.11.2000) by [2000 c. 42](#), s. 4
- F3** Words in s. 36(6)(a) repealed (1.10.2009) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 146, 148, [Sch. 18 Pt. 5](#); S.I. 2009/1604, [art. 2\(f\)](#)
- F4** S. 36(6)(b) substituted (11.5.2001) by [2001 c. 13](#), s. 1, [Sch. 1 para. 5](#)
- F5** Words in s. 36(7) substituted (1.11.2023 for specified purposes) by [Elections Act 2022 \(c. 37\)](#), s. 67(1), [Sch. 8 para. 10\(3\)](#); S.I. 2023/1145, reg. 3(i)(v)
- F6** S. 36(8) inserted (1.11.2023 for specified purposes) by [Elections Act 2022 \(c. 37\)](#), s. 67(1), [Sch. 8 para. 10\(4\)](#); S.I. 2023/1145, reg. 3(i)(v)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 36(1) applied (20.2.2016) by [Public Services Ombudsman Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(c. 4\)](#), s. 64, [Sch. 1 para. 3\(3\)](#)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1975 c.25.
M2 1973 c.17.
M3 1975 c.24.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 36 savings for effects of 2022 c. 37, Sch. 8 para. 10 by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 16](#)
- s. 36 savings for effects of 2022 c. 37, Sch. 8 para. 10 by [S.I. 2024/319 reg. 17](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act modified (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 2 para. 2\(5\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 31(2)-(2D) substituted for s. 31(2) (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 3 para. 2\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)
- s. 31(2)-(2D) substituted for s. 31(2) (cond.) by [2006 c. 53 Sch. 3 para. 2\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk to legislation.gov.uk. It is a conditional amendment that was never brought into force. Sch. 3 repealed (10.5.2007) by Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 (c. 53), s. 2(5) (as amended by 2007 c. 4, s. 1(1)), Sch. 4 para. 3 (with s. 1(3)); S.I. 2007/1397, art. 2)
- s. 31(2E) inserted (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 3 para. 3\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)
- Sch. 2 para. 9B inserted by [2009 c. 8 s. 27](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The amending provision was repealed (16.2.2011) without ever being in force by 2010 c. 36, ss. 2(1), 4(2))