



Northern Ireland Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 47

PART IV

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Presiding Officer and Commission

39 Presiding Officer.

- (1) Each Assembly shall as its first business elect from among its members a Presiding Officer and 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—
 - (a) he previously resigns;
 - (b) he ceases to be a member of the Assembly otherwise than by virtue of a dissolution; or
 - (c) the Assembly elects from among its members a person to hold office as Presiding Officer or deputy in his place.
- (3) If the Presiding Officer or a deputy ceases to hold office (otherwise than under subsection (2)(c)) before the Assembly is dissolved, the Assembly 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 a 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 Assembly.
- (7) A person shall not be elected under subsections (1) to (3) without cross-community support.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Section 39.