



# Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 53

### PART 2

#### AMENDMENTS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND ACT 1998 ETC

##### *Ministerial conduct*

#### **6 Power to refer Ministerial decision to Executive Committee**

After section 28A of the 1998 Act insert—

*“Power to refer Ministerial decision to Executive Committee*

##### **28B Power to refer Ministerial decision to Executive Committee**

- (1) This section applies if 30 members petition the Assembly expressing concern that a decision taken by a Minister or junior Minister (“the Ministerial decision”)—
  - (a) may have been taken in contravention of section 28A(1); or
  - (b) relates to a matter of public importance.
- (2) But this section does not apply if the Ministerial decision has previously been the subject of a reference under this section.
- (3) If the Presiding Officer, after consulting the political parties whose members hold seats in the Assembly, certifies that the Ministerial decision relates to a matter of public importance, he shall refer the decision to the Executive Committee for its consideration.
- (4) Having considered the reference, the Executive Committee shall notify the Presiding Officer—

*Status: Point in time view as at 26/03/2007.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006, Section 6. (See end of Document for details)*

- (a) whether or not the decision was, in its view, taken in contravention of section 28A(1);
  - (b) whether or not the decision relates, in its view, to a significant or controversial matter; and
  - (c) as to any action that the Executive Committee proposes to take, or has taken, in relation to the decision.
- (5) No reference may be made under this section after the end of the period of seven days beginning with—
- (a) the day on which the Ministerial decision was taken; or
  - (b) if appropriate, the day on which the decision was notified to the Assembly.
- (6) Any consideration by the Executive Committee of a Ministerial decision under this section must be completed before the end of the period of seven days beginning with the day on which the reference is made.
- (7) Standing orders shall make provision with respect to the procedure to be followed—
- (a) in petitioning the Assembly under subsection (1); and
  - (b) in making a reference under this section.
- (8) The periods mentioned in subsections (5) and (6) shall be computed by reference only to days on which the Assembly sits.”

#### **Commencement Information**

- II** [Part 2](#) (ss. 5-19) in force on 26.3.2007 if (and only if) the Secretary of State makes a restoration order by virtue of s. 2(2), see [s. 27\(4\)\(5\)](#)

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