



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill  
Notice of Amendments tabled on  
10 February 2016 for Further Consideration Stage

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**Long Title**

At beginning insert -

‘A

**B I L L**

TO

Provide for the formation of an Assembly Opposition; to provide for the passing of an Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion; and to reform the Assembly and the Executive.’

*Mr John McCallister*

## Long Title

At beginning insert -

‘A

# B I L L

TO

Provide for the formation of an Assembly Opposition; and to reform the Assembly and the Executive.’

*Mr John McCallister*

## Clause 2, Page 1, Line 20

After subsection (3) insert -

‘; or

(4) Whose members comprise 8% or more of the total number of members of the Assembly, and which does not contain a member who is a Minister.’

*Mr John McCallister*

## Clause 3, Page 2, Line 4

At end insert -

‘(d) the Opposition may also be formed by one or more of the qualifying parties before the 30th June 2016.’

*Mr John McCallister*

## New Clause

After clause 11 insert -

### ‘Private Members’ Bills

**11A.** The Assembly Commission shall report to the Northern Ireland Assembly on the appropriateness of support available for the development of Private Members’ Bills at least once every three years.’

*Mr John McCallister*

## **New Clause**

After clause 11 insert -

### **‘Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion**

**11B.**—(1) An Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion is a motion, passed with cross-community support in the Assembly, requesting that the Secretary of State bring forward legislation (being legislation which is beyond the legislative competence of the Assembly), to allow matters to be dealt with as Reserved rather than Excepted matters.

(2) The Schedule makes further provision in respect of the arrangements to be dealt with as Reserved rather than Excepted matters.

(3) Only those arrangements laid out in the Schedule can be contained in the Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion.

(4) If the Assembly passes an Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion the Speaker must send a copy of it to the Secretary of State.’

*Mr John McCallister*

### **Clause 12, Page 3, Line 19**

Leave out ‘Reform’ and insert ‘Transfer of Responsibilities’

*Mr John McCallister*

### **Clause 13, Page 3, Line 29**

Leave out ‘Reform’ and insert ‘Transfer of Responsibilities’

*Mr John McCallister*

### **Clause 14, Page 4, Line 4**

After subsection (2) insert -

‘(3) Standing Orders must make provision for an annual debate on the Executive legislative timetable.’

*Mr John McCallister*

### **Clause 16, Page 4, Line 15**

Leave out ‘one month after the day’ and insert ‘the day after’

*Mr John McCallister*

## **New Schedule**

After clause 17 insert first new Schedule

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **CONTENT OF ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES MOTION**

##### *Scope of Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion*

1. An Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion shall include the provisions set out in this Schedule.

*Mr John McCallister*

## **New Schedule**

After clause 17 insert new Schedule

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **CONTENT OF ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES MOTION**

##### *Scope of Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion*

1. An Assembly and Executive Transfer of Responsibilities Motion shall include the provisions set out in this Schedule.

##### *Agreement of Programme for Government*

2. The motion may request that the arrangements and timeframes for agreeing the terms of the Programme for Government are dealt with as reserved rather than excepted matters.

*Mr John McCallister*

### ***As an amendment to the amendment tabled by John McCallister to insert the first new Schedule***

After clause 17 insert -

##### *'Agreement of Programme for Government*

The motion may request that the arrangements and timeframes for agreeing the terms of the Programme for Government are dealt with as reserved rather than excepted matters.'

*Mr John McCallister*

### ***As an amendment to the amendment tabled by John McCallister to insert the first new Schedule***

After clause 17 insert -

##### *'Presiding Officer*

The motion may request that the arrangements for election of the Presiding Officer are dealt with as reserved rather than excepted matters.'

*Mr John McCallister*

***As an amendment to the amendment tabled by John McCallister to insert the Second new Schedule***

After clause 17 insert -

*'Presiding Officer*

The motion may request that the arrangements for election of the Presiding Officer are dealt with as reserved rather than excepted matters.'

*Mr John McCallister*

**New Clause**

After clause 11 insert -

**'Motion on alleged breaches of the Ministerial Code**

**11A.** A Motion on alleged breaches of the Ministerial Code is a motion, passed by cross-community consent in the Assembly, requesting that the Secretary of State bring forward legislation (being legislation which is beyond the legislative competence of the Assembly) to reform governance in the Executive.'

*Mr Steven Agnew*

*Ms Claire Sugden*

**New Schedule**

After clause 17 insert Schedule

**SCHEDULE**

Section 11A.

**PROCEDURE FOR INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED BREACHES OF MINISTERIAL CODE**

*Procedure for investigation of alleged breaches of Ministerial Code*

1. The motion may request that procedures be established for the submission of complaints of breaches of the Ministerial Code, and for the investigation of those complaints.

2. The motion may request that as soon as practicable after an investigation of a complaint of a breach of the Ministerial Code is completed, a report on that investigation must be published.

*Mr Steven Agnew*

*Ms Claire Sugden*

**Clause 5, Page 2, Line 15**

Leave out paragraph (b)

*Mr Danny Kennedy*

*Mr Robin Swann*

**Clause 6, Page 2, Line 25**

After 'questions' insert ', oral questions and statements'

*Mr Danny Kennedy*

*Mr Robin Swann*

**Long Title**

At beginning insert -

'A

**B I L L**

TO

Provide for the formation of an Assembly opposition; to provide for an Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion; and to allow reform of the Institutions of the Assembly and the Executive.'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

**New Clause**

After clause 3 insert -

**'Leaving the Opposition and joining the Executive**

**3A.** Standing orders shall provide that a member or members may, having previously declined Ministerial office under section 18(2) to (6) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, leave the Opposition and nominate or be nominated for Ministerial office in accordance with section 18(2) to (6) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

## **New Clause**

After clause 9 insert -

### **‘Establishment of Welfare Reform and Measures Committee**

**9A.**—(1) Standing orders must make provision for the establishment of a standing committee, to be known as the Welfare Reform and Measures Committee, which shall—

- (a) keep under review the Northern Ireland (Welfare Reform) Act 2015;
- (b) keep under review the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015;
- (c) monitor the implementation of these and the effects on welfare provision in Northern Ireland; and
- (d) consider all consequential welfare measures, options for mitigating arrangements and their implementation.
- (e) this committee may table a Legislative Amendment Request Motion in the Assembly which would specify amendments which the Assembly might ask the Secretary of state to pursue. Such a legislative amendment request motion may address issues arising from the legislative measures named in this clause or measures in future Westminster Welfare legislation which the committee considers to have implications which the Assembly should seek to influence or avert.

(2) Standing Orders shall provide that the committee is to have powers under section 44 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (power to call for witnesses and documents).’

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

## **New Clause**

After clause 11 insert -

### **‘Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion**

**11A.**—(1) An Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion is a motion, if passed by the Assembly, requesting that the Secretary of State bring forward legislation (being legislation which deals with excepted matters under the Northern Ireland Act 1998) to reform the Assembly and the Executive.

(2) An Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion shall be passed by cross community vote.

(3) An Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion may be tabled only in relation to those matters detailed in the Schedule.

(4) The Schedule makes further provisions in relation to the content of an Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion.

(5) If the Assembly passes an Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion, the Speaker shall send a copy of the motion to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.’

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

**Clause 12, Page 3, Line 19**

Leave out 'Assembly and Executive' and insert 'Opposition and Institutional'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*  
*Mr Alex Attwood*  
*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

**Clause 13, Page 3, Line 28**

Leave out from second 'Assembly' to 'Executive' on line 29 and insert 'Opposition and Institutional'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*  
*Mr Alex Attwood*  
*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

**New Schedule**

After clause 17 insert new Schedule

SCHEDULE

CONTENT OF OPPOSITION AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM MOTION

*Scope of Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion*

1. An Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion may include the provisions set out in this Schedule.

*Content of Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion*

2. An Opposition and Institutional Reform Motion shall be limited to the provisions set out in this Schedule.

*Election of First Ministers and deputy First Minister*

3. The motion may request that the Assembly shall elect from among its members the First Minister and deputy First Minister, (or joint First Ministers), standing for election jointly, with the support of a majority of the designated Nationalists voting, a majority of the designated Unionists voting and a majority of Assembly members voting.

*Mr Colum Eastwood*  
*Mr Alex Attwood*  
*Mrs Dolores Kelly*  
*Mr Robin Swann*  
*Mr Danny Kennedy*



***As an amendment to the amendment tabled by Colum Eastwood to insert a new Schedule***

After paragraph 3 insert -

*'Programme for Government*

3A. A motion may request that political parties are required to establish a programme for government before a member takes up Ministerial office under section 18 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and not later than 2 weeks after the election of a new Assembly.'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

***As an amendment to the amendment tabled by Colum Eastwood to insert a new Schedule***

After paragraph 3 insert -

*'Leaving the Opposition to join the Executive*

3B. The motion may request that a member may leave the Opposition and be nominated for Ministerial office in accordance with section 18(2) to (6) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

***As an amendment to the amendment tabled by Colum Eastwood to insert a new Schedule***

After paragraph 3 insert -

*'Election of Ministers*

3C. The motion may request that all Ministers in charge of the Northern Ireland Departments shall be nominated under the provisions of section 18 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

***As an amendment to the amendment tabled by Colum Eastwood to insert a new Schedule***

After paragraph 3 insert -

*'Function of Statutory Committees*

3D. The motion may request that the functions of statutory committees are to scrutinise Ministers, to propose legislation and to advise and assist Ministers in the formulation of policy.'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*

*As an amendment to the amendment tabled by Colum Eastwood to insert a new Schedule*

After paragraph 3 insert -

*'Leaving the Opposition and re-joining the Executive*

3E. The motion may request that a member may leave the Opposition and be nominated for Ministerial office in accordance with section 18(2) to (6) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.'

*Mr Colum Eastwood*

*Mr Alex Attwood*

*Mrs Dolores Kelly*