

In Part IV, Section 42 sub section 1 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 shall be amended to:

- 1 If 30 members petition the Assembly expressing their concern about a matter which is to be voted on by the Assembly, the vote on that matter shall require cross-community support**
 - a. With immediate effect the following protocol will limit the use of the petition of concern to:**
 - i. Matters of national identity;**
 - ii. Matters which relate to the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland; or**
 - iii. Matters which relate to the constitutional structure and institutions established under the Good Friday Agreement**
 - b. The protocol will also mean that, where a petition of concern is tabled, this should state the ground or grounds upon which it is being tabled and the nature of the detriment which is perceived as arising from an affirmative vote on the matter.**
 - c. Adjudication of the eligibility of a petition of concern would be determined through an adjudication panel of five members. The members of this panel shall be legally qualified and be appointed by the Assembly Commission through an open and transparent public appointments process. When a petition of concern is tabled, the Speaker will select one member of the panel at random for an adjudication to be provided within 24 hours. Where the initial panel member selected is not available, other names will be drawn until someone is identified.**
 - d. A petition of concern may only be accepted if the petition is signed by 30 individual MLAs witnessed in person by an official of the Assembly namely the Chief Executive Officer or a Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and lodged with the Assembly Business Office. Pre-signed or altered petitions may not be accepted.**
 - e. This protocol will be placed into primary legislation by the UK Parliament as soon as possible, but no later than six months from this agreement.**