

Tourist Boards (Scotland) Bill

Bill Number:	SP Bill 60
Introduced on:	20 March 2006
Introduced by:	Patricia Ferguson (Executive Bill)
Passed:	25 October 2006
Royal Assent:	30 November 2006

Passage of the Bill

The [Tourist Boards \(Scotland\) Bill](#) (SP Bill 60) was introduced in the Parliament on 20 March 2006 by the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Patricia Ferguson MSP. Stage 1 began on 28 March 2006 with the Enterprise and Culture Committee as the lead committee. The Stage 1 (general principals) debate took place on 29 June 2006 and the Bill was passed following the Stage 3 debate on 25 October 2006.

Purpose and objectives of the Bill

The Scottish Tourist Board was established by the Development of Tourism Act 1969. The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 required the establishment of area tourist boards. Fourteen such boards were created but these have been wound up and two new network area tourist boards created in their place. The Scottish Tourist Board and the network area tourist boards operate under the banner of VisitScotland.

The Bill is intended to abolish the network area tourist boards, to rename the Scottish Tourist Board as VisitScotland and increase the number of Board members.

Provisions of the Bill

The Bill

- Changes the name of the Scottish Tourist Board
- Increases the limit on the number of appointed board members from six to eleven
- Removes the requirement that there be area tourist boards
- Makes consequential amendments to existing legislation

Parliamentary consideration

The Enterprise and Culture Committee recommended that Parliament agree the general principles of the Bill. At Stage 2 an amendment was lodged to retain the name "The Scottish Tourist Board" but this was disagreed to in Committee.

The Bill was passed without amendment with 96 for, 2 against and 15 abstentions.