

5.—Section 31 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by—



AN BILLE UM UDARAS CRAOLACHAIN (LEASU), 1968
BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1968

(a) the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):
“(1) If in his opinion the national interest requires that any particular matter or matter of any particular class be not broadcast, the Minister may prepare a direction in writing authorising to that effect and if such direction conveyed to them by the Minister.”

Mar a tugadh isteach
As introduced

(b) the addition to subsection (2) of “ provided that any such announcement is made at a public meeting held in the presence of the Minister.”, and
(c) the addition of the following subsection:
“(3) All directions issued by the Minister shall be subject to a report to the Minister.”

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Interpretation.
2. Amendment of section 13 of Principal Act.
3. Free speech and minority viewpoints.
4. Amendment of section 18 of Principal Act.
5. Amendment of section 31 of Principal Act.
6. Assessor of Impartiality.
7. Short title, construction and collective citation.

(3) The decision of the Assessor of Impartiality, which shall be notified to the Houses of the Oireachtas, shall be subject to a report to the Minister.

4.—Section 18 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by—
(a) the deletion in subsection (1) of “ news or feature ”, wherever those words occur and the substitution in each case of “ or news bulletin ”, and

(b) the insertion of the following subsection (1) in section 18:
“(1) The Authority shall, in all cases, maintain the right of free speech and shall make provision for adequate representation of minority viewpoints from all parts of the national territory.”



**AN BILLE UM UDARAS CRAOLACHAIN (LEASU), 1968
BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1968**

BILL

entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY ACT, 1960.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:—

Interpretation.
1960, No. 10.

1.—In this Act “the Principal Act” means the Broadcasting Authority Act, 1960.

Amendment of
section 13 of
Principal Act.

2.—Section 13 (4) of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the deletion of “the Minister” and the substitution therefor of “a body comprising the Minister, the Chairman of An Chomhairle Ealaíon, a nominee of the editors of the daily morning newspapers, and a nominee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions”.

Free speech
and minority
viewpoints.

3.—The following section is hereby inserted after section 17 of the Principal Act:—

“17A.—The Authority shall at all times maintain the right of free speech and shall make provision for adequate representation of minority viewpoints from all parts of the national territory.”

Amendment of
section 18 of
Principal Act.

4.—Section 18 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by—

(a) the deletion in subsection (1) of “news or feature” wherever those words occur and the substitution therefor in each case of “or news bulletin”, and

(b) the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):

“(1A) Notwithstanding anything contained in subsection (1) of this section, the officers of the Authority in presenting programmes other than news bulletins shall be free to comment on matters of public controversy provided that taking one programme with another over a reasonable period the Authority shall maintain a balance between different views on such matters of public controversy, and the Authority shall be free to transmit programmes in which a representative of a political party, whether a member of the Oireachtas or not, appears, provided that a general balance is maintained between such appearances and such programmes.”

5.—Section 31 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by—

Amendment of section 31 of Principal Act.

(a) the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):

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“(1) If in his opinion the national interest requires that any particular matter or matter of any particular class be not broadcast, the Minister may prepare a direction in writing to the Authority to that effect and if this direction is countersigned by the Leader of one of the principal Opposition Parties, or by his authorised representative, the Authority shall comply with any such direction conveyed to them by the Minister.”

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(b) the addition to subsection (2) of “provided that any such announcement shall be accompanied by a statement that it is being made at the direction of the Minister.”, and

(c) the addition of the following subsection:

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“(3) All directions or requests by the Minister shall be published by the Authority in its annual report, unless the Minister certifies that such publication would be contrary to the national interest and this certificate is endorsed by the Leader of one of the principal Opposition Parties.”

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6.—The following section is hereby inserted after section 31 of the Principal Act:—

Assessor of Impartiality.

“31A.—(1) A Judge of the High Court shall be nominated by the Chief Justice to be Assessor of Impartiality under this Act.

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(2) Any three members of the Oireachtas or any five hundred members of the general public may lodge an appeal with the Assessor of Impartiality alleging lack of impartiality by the Authority in breach of sections 17 or 18 of this Act.

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(3) The decision of the Assessor of Impartiality, which shall be notified to the Houses of the Oireachtas, shall not be subject to appeal, and the Authority shall be obliged to take whatever action may be required by the Assessor of Impartiality to remedy breaches of its obligations under these sections of this Act.

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(4) The Assessor of Impartiality shall have the same powers as a Tribunal of Inquiry appointed under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act, 1921.”

7.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Broadcasting Authority (Amendment) Act, 1968.

Short title, construction and collective citation.

(2) The Broadcasting Authority Acts, 1960 to 1966, and this Act shall be construed together as one Act, and may be cited together as the Broadcasting Authority Acts, 1960 to 1968.

**AN BILLE UM UDARAS CRAOLACHAIN
(LEASU), 1968**

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (AMEND-
MENT) BILL, 1968**

BILLE BILL

*(mar a tugadh isteach)
dá ngairtear*

*(as introduced)
entitled*

**Acht do leasú an Achta um Údarás Craolacháin,
1960**

**An Act to amend the Broadcasting Authority Act,
1960.**

**An Seanadóir Gearóid Mac Gearailt a thug isteach,
agus na Seanadóirí Seán Ó Coigligh agus Seán
Ó Conluain ag cuidiú leis.**

**Introduced by Senator Garret FitzGerald, sup-
ported by Senators John B. O'Quigley and John
F. Conlan.**

**Ordáíodh ag Seanad Éireann a chlóbhualadh,
20 Márta, 1968**

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**Le ceannach ón Oifig Diolta Foilseachán Rialtais, An
Stuara, Ard-Oifig an Phoist, Baile Átha Cliath, nó trí
aon díoltóir leabhar.]**

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