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

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Principal Act, viz. the Broadcasting Authority Act, 1960, in certain respects. Details of the proposed amendments are set out below.

*Section 2* proposes that before the Authority appoints or removes the Director-General the consent of a body comprising the Minister, the Chairman of An Chomhairle Ealaíon, and nominees of the editors of the daily morning papers and of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions shall be necessary.

*Section 3* is designed to ensure free speech on controversial issues on radio and television and it requires the Authority to make provision for adequate representation for minority viewpoints from all parts of the national territory.

*Section 4* is designed (1) to ensure that the impartiality requirement in section 18 of the Principal Act is not used to limit freedom of speech or comment on programmes other than the news bulletins—whether these programmes originate in the News Department or elsewhere, and (2) to deal with interpretations of the Authority's duties which involve the exclusion of members of the Oireachtas from certain programmes other than party political broadcasts, or the imposition of arbitrary limits on such appearances. The impartiality requirement in regard to (1) is met by requiring impartiality to be maintained over a reasonable period, taking one programme with another, and in regard to (2), is met by providing that a balance shall be maintained between appearances and programmes involving members of the Oireachtas.

*Section 5* requires (1) that any directions given by the Minister in writing to the Authority under section 31 of the Principal Act shall be countersigned by the Leader of one of the principal Opposition Parties, (2) that wherever matter is broadcast by direction of the Minister, this must be publicly stated on the same programme, and (3) that all ministerial directions shall be published unless the Minister and the Leader of one of the principal Opposition Parties certify that this would be contrary to the national interest.

*Section 6* provides for the appointment of a Judge of the High Court as Assessor of Impartiality, to whom any three members of the Oireachtas or five hundred members of the public can lodge complaints against alleged breaches of impartiality by the Authority. The Assessor of Impartiality's decision would be final.

*Senators Garret FitzGerald, John B. O'Quigley and John F. Conlan,*

*Márta, 1968.*





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

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM  
BILL

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Principal Act, 1968, in certain respects. Details of the proposed amendments are set out below in red ink and are grouped under headings as far as possible. The amendments are set out in numbered paragraphs and are grouped under headings as far as possible. The amendments are set out in numbered paragraphs and are grouped under headings as far as possible. The amendments are set out in numbered paragraphs and are grouped under headings as far as possible.

Section 18 of the Principal Act is amended to limit freedom of speech of comment on programmes other than the news bulletins. Where these programmes originate in the News Department or elsewhere and (2) to deal with interpretations of the Authority's rules which involve the exclusion of members of the Oireachtas from certain programmes other than party political broadcasts, or the imposition of arbitrary limits on such appearances. The impartiality requirement in regard to (1) is met by requiring impartiality to be maintained over a reasonable period, taking one programme with another, and in regard to (2) is met by providing that a balance shall be maintained between appearances and programmes involving members of the Oireachtas.

Section 19 requires (1) that any directions given by the Minister in relation to the Authority under section 31 of the Principal Act shall be counter-signed by the Leader of one of the principal Opposition Parties (2) that whenever matter is broadcast by direction of the Minister, this must be publicly stated on the same programme, and (3) that all significant directions shall be published unless the Minister and the Leader of one of the principal Opposition Parties certify that this would be contrary to the national interest.

Section 6 provides for the appointment of a Judge of the High Court as Assessor of impartiality, to whom any three members of the Oireachtas or five hundred members of the public can lodge complaints against alleged breaches of impartiality by the Authority. The Assessor of impartiality's decision would be final.

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