



AN BILLE UM THOGHCAIN AITIULA, 1972
LOCAL ELECTIONS BILL, 1972

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is to repeal the provision whereby a person may be registered as a local government elector by virtue of occupation of land or premises, to remove certain disqualifications for membership of local authorities, to alter the years for holding local elections and to make consequential provisions regarding appointment of school attendance committees and meetings of vocational education committees.

Section 1 of the Bill provides that a person shall be entitled to be registered as a local government elector in a local electoral area if he has reached the age of 21 years and is ordinarily resident in that area. At present, under section 5 (2) of the Electoral Act, 1963, a person is entitled to be registered as a local government elector for a local electoral area if he has reached the age of 21 years and is either ordinarily resident in the area or occupies, as owner or tenant, land or premises in the area, the right to registration being subject to the restriction that a person may not be registered as a local elector more than once in the area of any local authority.

Section 2 of the Bill will remove certain disqualifications for membership of local authorities contained in Article 12 of the Schedule to the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898. The disqualifications which are being removed are—having received general assistance from a public assistance authority or having been adjudged bankrupt.

The effect of *section 3* will be to postpone to June, 1973, the local elections which under existing law are due to be held in June, 1972, and to extend the term of office of existing members of local authorities accordingly.

Section 4 makes consequential provision about appointment of members of school attendance committees and provides that the next appointments after the passing of this Act will be made in 1973 and will be regarded as quinquennial appointments.

Section 5 makes consequential provision in regard to meetings of vocational education committees and provides that the next meetings of such committees held under section 14 of the Vocational Education Act, 1930, after the passing of this Act shall be regarded as quinquennial meetings.

Section 6 contains the usual provision about short title, collective citation and construction.

An Roinn Rialtais Aitiúil,
Bealtaine, 1972

Wt. W68890/G/2. 875. 5/72. C.&Co. (6388). G.16.

