



**AN BILLE UM BORD NAISIUNTA EOLAIOCHTA AGUS  
TEICNEOLAIOCHTA, 1976  
NATIONAL BOARD FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
BILL, 1976**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

1. The purpose of this Bill is to introduce new institutional arrangements for the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive and fully integrated national policy for science and technology, and in particular, to establish a new National Board for Science and Technology to give greater thrust to the national effort in this area.

The establishment of the Board is part of a package of recommendations for national science policy for Ireland, which originated from work of the National Science Council and was further developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). These recommendations were the end product of a review undertaken by OECD spread over several years and involving consultation with all the interested elements in this country.

The Board will have as its main functions the advising of the Government on policy for science and technology and related matters, the promotion of the coordination of activities relating to science and technology and the making of recommendations regarding the allocation of resources for science and technology. In accordance with the OECD recommendations on the establishment of the new institution, the Board will also have at its disposal an allocation of funds for pilot and promotional activities in science and technology. In execution of its main functions the Board will prepare a Science Budget, bringing together in one statement all allocations from public funds for science and technology, which will facilitate Oireachtas debates on this subject and on national policy for science and technology generally. The Budget will not be voted on separately; its component parts will be dealt with in the Dáil under their respective Departmental Votes. The Science Budget will have as a reference point a national programme for science and technology which will be gradually elaborated, and constantly reviewed, by the new Board in consultation with the relevant institutions.

2. *Section 1* defines certain expressions used in the Bill.

*Sections 2 and 3* provide for the establishment of the National Board for Science and Technology on a day to be appointed by the Minister.

*Section 4* lists the functions of the Board. Subsection (1) states the Board's general functions which are the furtherance of science and technology and the promotion of an appreciation of its value; advising the Government and the Minister for Industry and Commerce on policy and, at the Minister's request, on any other matter related to science and technology; and promoting the coordination of public investment in science and technology and itself providing grants. Subsection (2) empowers the Board to do such other things as arise out of its functions, subject to any conditions the Minister may impose. Subsection (3) contains a list, which is not exhaustive, of specific functions which the Board will have arising out of its general functions.

*Section 5* provides for the preparation of an annual Science Budget by the Board and for the laying by the Minister of a copy before each House of the Oireachtas.

*Section 6* requires the Board to review periodically the effectiveness of the programmes provided for in the Science Budget and provides also for the supplying to the Board of the information required to enable it to carry out its tasks.

*Section 7* enables the Board to institute, conduct and promote research and to publish or disseminate the results.

*Section 8* lays down the conditions for the appointment by the Government, on the recommendation of the Minister, of a Chairman and not more than ten Members of the Board.

*Section 9* is a standard provision dealing with candidacy for and membership of either House of the Oireachtas and membership of the Board.

*Section 10* provides that members of the Board may be remunerated for their services and provides also for the payment of expenses.

*Section 11* provides for the disqualification of members of the Board in certain circumstances.

*Section 12* provides for the seal of the Board.

*Section 13* requires the disclosure by members of the Board of interest in any proposed contract.

*Section 14* lays down the procedure for meetings of the Board.

*Section 15* provides for the financing of the Board out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas by grants of such amounts as the Minister, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, approves.

*Section 16* indicates miscellaneous powers of the Board.

*Section 17* provides that the funds of the Board may be used for the payment of its expenses and for the making of payments, grants or loans.

*Section 18* permits the investment of its funds by the Board.

*Section 19* provides for the acceptance of gifts by the Board and of payment for services rendered.

*Section 20* provides for the preparation of the Board's annual report which the Minister is to lay before each House of the Oireachtas and for the supplying of the Minister with such information regarding the performance of the functions of the Board as he may from time to time require.

*Section 21* provides for the customary accounts and audits.

*Section 22* empowers the Board to establish Committees and to delegate to them some of its functions; the Committees may include persons who are not members of the Board.

*Section 23* empowers the Board to employ consultants and advisers.

*Section 24* prohibits the disclosure of confidential information.

*Section 25* provides for the performance of functions of the Board through or by its officers or servants.

Section 26 provides for the appointment by the Board of such and so many officers and servants as it thinks proper; their rates of remuneration to be subject to the consent of the Minister for the Public Service.

Section 27 provides for a superannuation scheme for officers and servants of the Board.

Section 28 covers the secondment of an employee of the Board becoming a Member of the Oireachtas.

Section 29 provides that the Minister's expenses under the Act are to be paid out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

Section 30 prescribes the short title.

**Roinn Tionscail agus Tráchtála,  
Lúnasa, 1976.**

1. Appointment of establishment day.
2. Establishment of Board.
3. Functions of Board.
4. Science Budget.
5. Review of programmes.
6. Supply of information required by Board.
7. Power to request.
8. Minutes of Board.
9. Membership of other Houses of the Oireachtas by members of Board.
10. Remuneration of members of Board.
11. Disqualification of members of Board.
12. Seal of Board.
13. Discharge by members of Board of duties in special circumstances.
14. Meetings and procedure of Board.
15. Grants to Board.
16. Miscellaneous powers of Board.
17. Expenditure by Board.
18. Investment by Board.
19. Acceptance of gifts etc. by Board.
20. Annual report and information to Oireachtas.
21. Accounts and audit.
22. Committees of Board.
23. Power to employ consultants.
24. Prohibition of disclosure of confidential information.
25. Proceedings of Board by officers or servants.
26. Officers and servants of Board.
27. Superannuation of officers and servants of Board.
28. Secondment of employees of Board becoming members of Oireachtas.
29. Expenses.
30. Short title.

Section 26 provides for the appointment by the Board of such and so many officers and servants as it thinks proper. The rates of remuneration to be subject to the consent of the Minister for the Public Service.

Section 6 requires the Board to review periodically the activities of the Board and to provide for a system of remuneration for officers and servants of the Board and also for the supply to the Board of the means required to enable it to carry out its tasks.

Section 28 covers the secondment of an employee of the Board becoming a Member of the Oireachtas.

Section 7 enables the Board to conduct and promote research and to publish or disseminate the results. Section 29 provides that the Minister's expenses under the Act are to be paid out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

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