



**AN BILLE UM BORD NÁISIÚNTA CURACLAIM AGUS  
MEASÚNÚCHÁIN, 1987**  
**NATIONAL BOARD FOR CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT  
BILL, 1987**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

1. The purpose of this Bill is to establish, on a statutory basis, a body which will be the principal agency for advising the Minister for Education on the formulation and development of the school curriculum at first and second levels. It is proposed to name this body the National Board for Curriculum and Assessment.
2. The Board will also advise the Minister on methods of assessing educational progress and on the desirable standards of knowledge and skill to be achieved; and will conduct assessments based on the approved school curriculum.
3. It is proposed that the Board will be given advisory functions with regard to curriculum and methods of assessment; and executive functions in carrying out assessments and in issuing certificates of achievement. (*Section 3*).
4. The Board will be constituted of twenty-three members including the Chairperson. Teacher, school management, and parent interests will be represented on the Board; the interests of the Irish language and social, economic, cultural, and other educational interests will also be considered when the Board is being appointed. Three persons will be appointed as her advisors to the Board by the Minister for Education. The Minister's advisors will not have voting rights on the Board. (*Sections 4 to 7*).
5. Provision is made in *section 8* for the Minister to designate those bodies which she considers should establish a special relationship with the Board. Designated bodies will have the right to make submissions to the Board orally or in writing and will be entitled to receive copies of any publications which the Board may issue. The Board will be expected to consult these bodies on major issues, as appropriate.
6. The Board will operate with the assistance of Committees which will advise it on such areas as curriculum structure and balance, syllabus content, examinations or other tests, examination regulations, etc. The Minister may appoint up to four members to any Committee of the Board. (*Section 9*).
7. The Board will be required to keep a permanent register of the results of any assessments made by it. (*Section 10*).
8. Provision is made whereby candidates who are not satisfied with the results of their assessment may lodge an appeal with the Board. (*Section 11*).



9. The Board may charge assessment fees at rates to be fixed by the Minister, with provision for remission of fee in certain circumstances. (Section 13).

10. Sections 14, 15 and 16 provide the mechanism by which the Board will be staffed, including the Chief Executive and examiners, advisors, etc. The permanent, full time staff of the Board will be civil servants attached to the Department of Education.

11. Sections 17 to 21 provide for grants, accounts, gifts, expenses and the annual report. These sections are broadly on the lines of similar provisions in other establishing Acts.

12. In section 22, provision is made that the Act may come into operation by order of the Minister on different days, in respect of different functions. This will permit an orderly transfer of its various functions to the Board from the Department of Education.

*Gemma Hussey  
Deireadh Fomhair, 1987*