



AN BILLE TOGHCHÁIN (LEASÚ), 1990 **ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1990**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The purpose of this Bill is to revise the Dáil constituencies in the light of the 1986 census returns and to implement the recommendations contained in the Report of the Dáil Constituency Commission dated 31st July, 1990 (Pl 7520). The Commission, a non-statutory body, was established by the Government to advise and report on the formation of constituencies for the election of members to Dáil Éireann.

2. *Section 2* of the Bill fixes the number of members of Dáil Éireann, after the next dissolution at 166. This is the same number as at present and is the number recommended by the Commission.

3. *Section 3* provides that after the next dissolution the members of Dáil Éireann will represent the constituencies specified in the Schedule (see paragraph 6 below).

4. *Section 4* provides that the number of members for each constituency will be as set out in the third column of the Schedule. The number of constituencies to return three, four and five members respectively, under the Bill and under the Electoral (Amendment) Acts of 1974, 1980 and 1983 are as follows:

	1990 Bill	1983 Act	1980 Act	1974 Act
3 members	12	13	13	26
4 members	15	13	13	10
5 members	14	15	15	6

5. *Sections 5 and 6* contain the usual consequential measures for rearrangement of headings of the register of electors and for the treatment of any polling district which may be split by a new constituency boundary.

Section 7 provides for the repeal of the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1983 which specifies the existing constituencies.

6. The *Schedule* to the Bill contains the formal definition of the new constituencies. The total population, the population per deputy and the variation from the national average of the ratio of population to deputy for each proposed constituency are set out in the Table to this memorandum.

7. Maps are being deposited in the Oireachtas Library indicating the proposed constituencies.

Table

Proposed Constituency	Number of Members	Population (1986)	Population per member	Variation from national average population per member
Carlow-Kilkenny	5	114,174	22,835	+1,506
Cavan-Monaghan	5	106,344	21,269	- 60
Clare	4	88,719	22,180	+ 851
Cork East	4	82,284	20,571	- 758
Cork North-Central	5	102,918	20,584	- 745
Cork North-West	3	62,455	20,818	- 511
Cork South-Central	5	103,732	20,746	- 583
Cork South-West	3	61,346	20,449	- 880
Donegal North-East	3	65,411	21,804	+ 475
Donegal South-West	3	64,253	21,418	+ 89
Dublin Central	4	87,564	21,891	+ 562
Dublin North	4	84,879	21,220	- 109
Dublin North-Central	4	86,825	21,706	+ 377
Dublin North-East	4	87,421	21,855	+ 526
Dublin North-West	4	87,964	21,991	+ 662
Dublin South	5	110,530	22,106	+ 777
Dublin South-Central	4	85,669	21,417	+ 88
Dublin South-East	4	86,726	21,682	+ 353
Dublin South-West	5	106,848	21,370	+ 41
Dublin West	4	86,837	21,709	+ 380
Dún Laoghaire	5	110,186	22,037	+ 708
Galway East	3	61,796	20,599	- 730
Galway West	5	108,445	21,689	+ 360
Kerry North	3	62,856	20,952	- 377
Kerry South	3	61,303	20,434	- 895
Kildare	5	106,186	21,237	- 92
Laoighis-Offaly	5	113,119	22,624	+1,295
Limerick East	5	104,669	20,934	- 395
Limerick West	3	62,525	20,842	- 487
Longford-Roscommon	4	86,088	21,522	+ 193
Louth	4	91,810	22,953	+1,624
Mayo East	3	61,551	20,517	- 812
Mayo West	3	61,944	20,648	- 681
Meath	5	103,881	20,776	- 553
Sligo-Leitrim	4	83,081	20,770	- 559
Tipperary North	3	59,522	19,841	-1,488
Tipperary South	4	79,758	19,940	-1,389
Waterford	4	88,490	22,123	+ 794
Westmeath	3	63,379	21,126	- 203
Wexford	5	102,552	20,510	- 819
Wicklow	5	104,603	20,921	- 408

*An Roinn Comhshaoil,
November, 1990.*

3 members	12	12	12
4 members	12	12	12
5 members	12	12	12

2. Section 3 and 6 contain the usual consequential measures for re-arrangement of boundaries of the register of electors and for the treatment of any polling district which may be split by a new constituency boundary.

Section 7 provides for the repeal of the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1983 which specifies the existing constituencies.

6. The Schedule to the Bill contains the formal definition of the new constituencies. The total population, the population per deputy and the variation from the national average of the ratio of population to deputy for each proposed constituency are set out in the Table to this memorandum.

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