



## AN BILLE TOGHCHÁIN (LEASÚ), 1995 ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The purpose of this Bill is to revise the Dáil constituencies in the light of the 1991 census returns and to implement the recommendations contained in the Report of the Dáil Constituency Commission dated 27 April, 1995 (Pn. 1619). The commission, a non-statutory body, was established by the Government to make a report in relation to the constituencies for the election of members to Dáil Éireann.

2. *Section 2* of the Bill fixes at 166 the number of members of Dáil Éireann, after the next dissolution. 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 1980, 1983 and 1990 and are as follows:

|           | 1995 | 1990 | 1983 | 1980 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| 3 members | 12   | 12   | 13   | 13   |
| 4 members | 15   | 15   | 13   | 13   |
| 5 members | 14   | 14   | 15   | 15   |

5. *Section 5* provides for the repeal of the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1990 which specifies the existing constituencies. The repeal will come into operation on the next dissolution of Dáil Éireann.

6. *The Schedule* to the Bill contains the formal definition of the 41 constituencies. The total population, the population per member and the variation from the national average population per member for each proposed constituency are set out in the Table to this memorandum.

Overall the number of proposed constituencies is the same as at present. Twenty of the proposed constituencies are identical in name, area and representation with an existing constituency, three are new in the sense that they are identical neither in name nor in area with any of the existing constituencies, while the remaining eighteen



retain the name of an existing constituency but differ from it, to a greater or lesser degree, in area, and, in two cases, in the number of seats assigned.

TABLE

| Proposed Constituency | Number of members | Population (1991) | Population per member | % Variation from national average population per member |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Carlow-Kilkenny       | 5                 | 111,027           | 22,205                | +4.55                                                   |
| Cavan-Monaghan        | 5                 | 104,089           | 20,818                | -1.98                                                   |
| Clare                 | 4                 | 88,074            | 22,018                | +3.66                                                   |
| Cork East             | 4                 | 80,369            | 20,092                | -5.40                                                   |
| Cork North-Central    | 5                 | 100,829           | 20,166                | -5.05                                                   |
| Cork North-West       | 3                 | 60,353            | 20,118                | -5.28                                                   |
| Cork South-Central    | 5                 | 107,608           | 21,522                | +1.33                                                   |
| Cork South-West       | 3                 | 61,210            | 20,403                | -3.93                                                   |
| Donegal North-East    | 3                 | 65,841            | 21,947                | +3.33                                                   |
| Donegal South-West    | 3                 | 62,276            | 20,759                | -2.26                                                   |
| Dublin Central        | 4                 | 87,393            | 21,848                | +2.87                                                   |
| Dublin North          | 4                 | 81,023            | 20,256                | -4.63                                                   |
| Dublin North-Central  | 4                 | 87,600            | 21,900                | +3.11                                                   |
| Dublin North-East     | 4                 | 83,170            | 20,792                | -2.10                                                   |
| Dublin North-West     | 4                 | 87,762            | 21,941                | +3.30                                                   |
| Dublin South          | 5                 | 111,151           | 22,230                | +4.67                                                   |
| Dublin South-Central  | 4                 | 88,858            | 22,215                | +4.59                                                   |
| Dublin South-East     | 4                 | 87,353            | 21,838                | +2.82                                                   |
| Dublin South-West     | 5                 | 110,388           | 22,078                | +3.95                                                   |
| Dublin West           | 4                 | 89,383            | 22,346                | +5.21                                                   |
| Dun Laoghaire         | 5                 | 111,223           | 22,245                | +4.73                                                   |
| Galway East           | 4                 | 80,113            | 20,028                | -5.70                                                   |
| Galway West           | 5                 | 100,251           | 20,050                | -5.60                                                   |
| Kerry North           | 3                 | 61,467            | 20,489                | -3.53                                                   |
| Kerry South           | 3                 | 60,427            | 20,142                | -5.16                                                   |
| Kildare North         | 3                 | 61,970            | 20,567                | -2.74                                                   |
| Kildare South         | 3                 | 60,686            | 20,229                | -4.76                                                   |
| Laoighis-Offaly       | 5                 | 110,808           | 22,162                | +4.34                                                   |
| Limerick East         | 5                 | 103,441           | 20,688                | -2.59                                                   |
| Limerick West         | 3                 | 61,359            | 20,453                | -3.70                                                   |
| Longford-Roscommon    | 4                 | 82,193            | 20,548                | -3.25                                                   |
| Louth                 | 4                 | 90,724            | 22,681                | +6.80                                                   |
| Mayo                  | 5                 | 110,713           | 22,143                | +4.25                                                   |
| Meath                 | 5                 | 105,370           | 21,074                | -0.77                                                   |
| Sligo-Leitrim         | 4                 | 80,057            | 20,014                | -5.76                                                   |
| Tipperary North       | 3                 | 67,233            | 22,411                | +5.52                                                   |
| Tipperary South       | 3                 | 67,091            | 22,364                | +5.30                                                   |
| Waterford             | 4                 | 90,072            | 22,518                | +6.02                                                   |
| Westmeath             | 3                 | 61,880            | 20,627                | -2.88                                                   |
| Wexford               | 5                 | 102,069           | 20,414                | -3.88                                                   |
| Wicklow               | 5                 | 100,815           | 20,163                | -5.07                                                   |
| Total                 | 166               | 3,525,719         | 21,239                |                                                         |

*An Roinn Comhshaoil  
Meitheamh 1995*

Wt. P38954/B/6. 925. 6/95. Cahill. (X28565). G.16.