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**AN BILLE UM ÁTRIBH CHEADÚNAITHE (TRÁTHANNA  
OSCAILTE), 1999**  
**LICENSED PREMISES (OPENING HOURS) BILL, 1999**

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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This Bill proposes to meet public demand for an extension of opening times for licensed premises.

If accepted by the Oireachtas, this legislation will—

- (a) extend the opening hours of licensing hours by 1 hour in summer, and 1 hour 30 minutes in winter, thus giving a year round closing time of 12.30 a.m.;
- (b) “holy hour” on Sunday from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. will be abolished;
- (c) St. Patrick’s Day, which is at present (apart from holy hour) treated like Sunday will instead have normal hours;
- (d) Christmas Day and Good Friday closing will remain.

*Na Teachta Séamus Ó hUiginn agus Cathal Ó Flannagáin.*  
*Meitheamh, 1999.*