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**AN BILLE UM BOCHTAINÉACHT BREOSLA AGUS  
CAOMHNÚ FUINNIMH 2008  
FUEL POVERTY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL  
2008**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh  
As initiated*

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**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

**Section**

1. Interpretation.
  2. Strategy relating to fuel poverty.
  3. Short title.
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ACTS REFERRED TO

Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992  
Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002

1992, No. 18  
2002, No. 9



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CAOMHNÚ FUINNIMH 2008  
FUEL POVERTY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL  
2008

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5 **BILL**

*entitled*

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNI-  
CATIONS, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
PUBLISH AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGY FOR  
REDUCING FUEL POVERTY; TO REQUIRE THE SET-  
TING OF TARGETS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THAT STRATEGY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR CONNED-  
TED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

15 **1.—(1)** In this Act—

Interpretation.

“housing authority” has the meaning assigned to it by section 23 (as  
amended by section 16 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions)  
Act 2002) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992;

20 “the Minister” means the Minister for Communications, Energy and  
Natural Resources.

25 (2) (a) For the purposes of this Act, a person is living in “fuel  
poverty” if he or she is a member of a household that is,  
because of low household income or poor (energy  
inefficient) housing, or both, unable to maintain its  
accommodation at a safe and reasonably comfortable  
temperature.

30 (b) Without prejudice to the generality of *paragraph (a)*,  
where more than 10 per cent of the net income of a  
household, excluding rental or mortgage payments, is  
spent on meeting household energy costs, the members  
of that household are living in fuel poverty.

**2.—(1)** It is the duty of the Minister—

Strategy relating to  
fuel poverty.

(a) to prepare and publish, within 12 months of the coming  
into operation of this Act, and

35 (b) to revise from time to time thereafter,

a strategy setting out the Minister's policies for ensuring, by means including the taking of measures to ensure the efficient use of energy, that as far as reasonably practicable persons do not live in fuel poverty.

(2) The strategy prepared and published under *subsection (1)* shall— 5

- (a) describe the households to which it applies,
- (b) specify a comprehensive package of measures for ensuring the efficient use of energy, such as the installation of appropriate equipment or insulation, 10
- (c) specify interim objectives to be achieved and target dates for achieving them, and
- (d) specify a target date for achieving the objective of ensuring that as far as reasonably practicable persons do not live in fuel poverty. 15

(3) The target date specified under *subsection (2)(d)* shall be not more than 15 years after the date on which the strategy is published.

(4) In preparing the strategy or any revision of the strategy, the Minister shall consult—

- (a) housing authorities or associations of housing authorities, 20
- (b) persons appearing to the Minister to represent the interests of persons living in fuel poverty,
- (c) the Combat Poverty Agency, the Commission for Energy Regulation and the National Consumer Agency, and
- (d) such other persons as the Minister thinks fit. 25

(5) The Minister shall take such steps as are in his or her opinion necessary to implement the strategy.

(6) The Minister shall—

- (a) from time to time assess the impact of steps taken under *subsection (5)* and the progress made in achieving the objectives and meeting the target dates, 30
- (b) make any revision of the strategy which the authority considers appropriate in consequence of the assessment,
- (c) from time to time publish reports on such assessments.

(7) If the Minister revises the strategy, he or she shall publish the strategy as revised. 35

Short title.

**3.**—This Act may be cited as the Fuel Poverty and Energy Conservation Act 2008.