



**AN BILLE UM CHOSAINT TOMHALTÓIRÍ (DEARBHÁIN
BHRONNTANAIS) 2009**
CONSUMER PROTECTION (GIFT VOUCHERS) BILL 2009

EXPLANATORY AND FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Purpose of Bill

The Bill is designed to extend the definition of “prohibited commercial practices” in section 55 of the Consumer Protection Act 2007.

The Bill adds a new paragraph to the list of prohibited commercial practices. Under the Bill, it will be a prohibited commercial practice to sell or offer for sale a gift voucher with a redemption period of less than 5 years. The net effect will be that all vouchers will remain valid for 5 years following the passing of the Bill.

It will be an offence (under section 56 of the 2007 Act) to contravene this provision. Consumers will have a right of action for damages for breach of the provision under section 74 of the 2007 Act.

Provisions of Bill

Section 1 amends section 55(1) of the Consumer Protection Act 2007 to prohibit the issue of gift vouchers with a period of validity of less than 5 years.

Section 2 is a standard provision.

Financial and regulatory implications

The Bill has no implications for public expenditure but the protections for consumers will enhance confidence and have positive economic implications.

Senators Brendan Ryan, Alex White, Michael McCarthy, Phil Prendergast, Ivana Bacik and Dominic Hannigan,
Samhain, 2009.