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**AN BILLE UM GHAIMITHE SLÁINTE AGUS CÚRAIM  
SHÓISIALAIGH (LEASÚ) 2010  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2010**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh  
As initiated*

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title and commencement.
  2. Interpretation.
  3. Amendment to section 4 of the Principal Act.
  4. Amendment to section 26 of the Principal Act.
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**BILL**

*entitled*

5  
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE  
PROFESSIONALS ACT 2005; TO ADD THE DESIG-  
NATION OF PSYCHOTHERAPIST AND COUNSELLOR  
PROFESSIONS UNDER THE ACT; AND TO PROVIDE  
FOR CONNECTED MATTERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Health and Social Care Pro- Short title and  
fessionals (Amendment) Act 2010. commencement.

15 (2) The Act comes into operation within 6 months of it being  
passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas.

2.—In this Act— Interpretation.

“Principal Act” means the Health and Social Care Professionals  
Act 2005.

20 3.—Section 4 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion  
after “(l) speech and language therapist” of “(m) psychotherapist  
and counselor under the name of “psychological therapist.”. Amendment to  
section 4 of the  
Principal Act.

25 4.—Section 26 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion  
after “(l) Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board” of  
“(m) Psychological Therapist Registration Board.”. Amendment to  
section 26 of the  
Principal Act.



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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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The purpose of this Bill is to include Psychotherapists and Counsellors in the regulation of health and social care professionals in Ireland.

The Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 was passed by the Oireachtas in November 2005. It designated twelve professions to be regulated by establishing the Health Care Professionals Council and the Registration Boards for the registration of persons qualifying to use the title of a designated profession and for the determination of complaints relating to their fitness to practice; and to provide for related matters.

The professions of Psychotherapist and Counsellor were not included. The Minister of State informed the Oireachtas that most of the professionals have become regulated through a process of discussion to try and meet a consensus. No consensus was forthcoming from psychotherapists and counsellors. The Minister informed the Oireachtas that The Psychological Therapies Forum consisting of 22 organisations was set up on 10th November 2005 and completed its recommendations in April 2008. In his address to the initial meeting of the Forum, the Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children in his address expressed an enthusiasm for the professions of Counselling and Psychotherapy to structure them in a format which would facilitate statutory recognition of both professions. He encouraged the group to formulate a submission to expedite and facilitate the profession to come under the auspices of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005. The Health and Social Care (Amendment) Bill 2010 facilitates this objective.

In accordance with a key principle of self-regulation, the proposed addition to the regulatory system will be self-financing. All expenses of the Council must be met from fee income from the added registrants.

*Teachta Dónal Ó Niaidh,  
Nollaig, 2010.*