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**AN BILLE UM CHOIMISIÚN THITHE AN OIREACHTAIS  
(LEASÚ) (UIMH. 2), 2012  
HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS COMMISSION  
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2012**

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**EXPLANATORY AND FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM**

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*The Bill consists of 5 sections*

*Section 1* is a standard provision defining words used in the Bill, in this case the “Principal Act”.

*Section 2* amends section 5 of the Principal Act and provides for funding of €324m for the next 3 year period commencing 1 January 2013. It also provides that the Commission can keep receipts; the 2003 Act provided that receipts would be returned to the Central Fund. These receipts will be offset against the Exchequer allocation and will be accounted for in both the annual estimate, which the Commission presents to the Dáil, and the appropriation account which is audited annually by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

*Section 3* provides for a change in the presentation of accounts to take due account of changes in the structure of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service since the establishment of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission, e.g. the establishment of the Library and Research Unit and the Communications Unit.

*Section 4* provides for the deletion of references to receipts no longer accruing.

*Section 5* provides for the short title, collective citation and commencement.

*Financial Implications*

Since 2004, the current expenditure of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service has been financed from the Central Fund rather than being included in the estimates proposed annually by the Minister for Finance/Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and voted on by the Dáil. This change was effected by the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Act 2003, which became operative on 1 January 2004. The Commission was granted power to pay the salaries and expenses of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service and to determine staff requirements, subject to the Minister’s consent to senior appointments in the Service. The 2003 Act provided funding up to the end of 2006. Further Acts in 2006 and 2009 granted funding

on a three year basis and provided for administrative changes in the Service. The legislation now proposed allows for continued funding for the 3 year period beginning 1 January 2013 and caps that funding at €324m.

*An Roinn Caitheachtais Phoiblí agus Athcháirithe,  
Nollaig, 2012.*