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**AN BILLE UM SHIONDRÓM DOWN (COMHIONANNAS  
ROCHTANA), 2013  
DOWN'S SYNDROME (EQUALITY OF ACCESS) BILL 2013**

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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*Purpose of the Bill*

The purpose of this Bill is to afford statutory recognition to Down's Syndrome as a "low incidence disorder" and in doing so to ensure that adequate provision is made for the resource teaching hours to be allocated to pupils with Down's Syndrome. The terms of the Bill are principally based upon a Department of Education Circular — Special Education Circular (SP ED 02/05).

Therefore, in addition to Down's Syndrome, the Bill gives statutory effect to the allocation of resource teaching hours, in respect of all low incidence disabilities which are referred to in Appendix 1 of the Circular.

*Provisions of the Bill*

*Section 1* defines 13 key terms which are relied upon in section 2. These definitions very closely reflect the meanings which have been assigned to those terms in the Department of Education Circular, with the addition of a definition of Down's Syndrome which though referenced in the Circular has not been defined.

*Section 2* requires that resource teaching hours, at the level specified in the Table which accompanies the section, shall be delivered by a school to each pupil who suffers from one or more of the 12 types of low incidence disability.

*Section 3* sets out the short title of the Bill. The Bill will come into effect immediately upon its enactment.

*Deputy Finian McGrath,  
17th July, 2013.*