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**Bille na gCúirteanna, 2015**  
**Courts Bill 2015**

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*Meabhrán Míitheach agus Airgeadais*  
*Explanatory and Financial Memorandum*

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**BILLE NA gCÚIRTEANNA, 2015**  
**COURTS BILL 2015**

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**EXPLANATORY AND FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM**

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**Purpose of the Bill**

The purpose of this Bill is to address the problems associated with the significant increase in the number of cases coming before the High Court including judicial review, medical negligence, asylum applications and company law related applications. Problems have also arisen from the increased duration of trials in the Central Criminal Court due to the increased complexity of evidence coming before it. These factors are leading to longer waiting times for cases to be heard and to an increase in the number of cases not proceeding on days listed for hearing as well as a significant number of reserved judgments. In order to address these problems, the Minister is satisfied that additional judicial resources are required in the High Court and the Bill accordingly provides for an increase in the statutory number of ordinary judges of the High Court by two. The Courts and Court Officers Act 1995 (as amended by the Courts and Court Officers (Amendment) Act 2007) provides, in section 9, that the number of ordinary judges of the High Court shall be not more than 35. The Bill increases the maximum number of judges to 37.

**Financial Implications of the Bill**

The salary for a judge appointed under the provisions of the Bill will be €172,710 subject to the application of provisions contained in the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Bill 2015 which it is proposed will allow for an amended pay structure for judges appointed on or after 1 Jan 2012 to bring their remuneration in line with that of judges appointed before that date.

**Provisions of the Bill**

*Section 1 Number of ordinary judges of High Court*

*Section 9* of the Courts and Court officers Act 1995 (as amended by section 2 of the Courts and Court Officers (Amendment) Act 2007) provides that the number of ordinary judges of the High Court shall not be more than 35. Section 1 of the Bill amends section 9 of the 1995 Act by providing that there shall be not more than 37 ordinary judges of the High Court.

*Section 2 Short title and collective citation*

*Section 2* provides for the short title of the Act and collective citation.

*An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais,*  
*Nollaig, 2015.*