



An Bille um Fhreagracht Bhuiséadach (Leasú), 2015
Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2015

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



AN BILLE UM FHREAGRACHT BHUISÉADACH (LEASÚ), 2015
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated

CONTENTS

Sections

1. Definition
2. Amendment of section 1(1) of Principal Act
3. Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act
4. Amendment of Schedule of Principal Act
5. Short title, collective citations and commencement

ACTS REFERRED TO

Electoral Act 1992 (No. 23)

Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012 (No. 39)



AN BILLE UM FHREAGRACHT BHUISÉADACH (LEASÚ), 2015
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015

Bill

entitled

An Act to amend the powers and functions of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council in relation to the analysis of policy proposals of political parties; for that purpose, to amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012; and to provide for related matters. 5

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

Definition

1. In this Act “Principal Act” means the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012. 10

Amendment of section 1(1) of Principal Act

2. Section 1(1) of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) by the insertion of “ ‘general election’ shall be construed in accordance with section 2(1) of the Electoral Act 1992;”, and

(b) by the insertion of “ ‘qualifying political party’ means a political party registered in the Register of Political Parties maintained pursuant to section 25 of the Electoral Act 1992 in respect of which the name of that political party had been specified on ballot papers and notices pursuant to section 46 of the Electoral Act 1992 at the most recent general election in relation to at least two members of Dáil Éireann elected at that general election;”. 15
20

Amendment of section 8 of Principal Act

3. Section 8 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection(6):

“(6A) The Fiscal Council shall carry out analysis on behalf of qualifying political parties in relation to the effect that policy proposals nominated by those qualifying registered political parties would (in the opinion of the Fiscal Council) have on the budgetary position of the general government and Part II of the Schedule shall apply in this regard.”. 25

Amendment of Schedule of Principal Act

4. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new Schedule:

“SCHEDULE 2

ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL PARTY POLICIES

1. The Fiscal Council shall carry out analysis on behalf of qualifying political parties in relation to the effect that policy proposals nominated by those qualifying registered political parties would (in the opinion of the Fiscal Council) have on the budgetary position of the general government in accordance with this Part. 5
2. This analysis shall include: 10
 - (a) the analysis of one major proposed policy programme in the lifetime of each Dáil (referred to in this Part as “manifesto analysis”) for each qualifying political party that requests same;
 - (b) the analysis of an alternative draft Budget or group of budgetary proposals each year in advance of the Budget (referred to in this Part as “alternative Budget analysis”) for each qualifying political party that requests same; and 15
 - (c) the analysis of individual policies at the request of qualifying political parties (referred to in this Part as “individual policy analysis”). 20
3. In carrying out its analysis as provided for in section 8(6A), the Fiscal Council shall seek, where it believes it is reasonably practicable to do so, to provide its analysis on both a stand-alone basis and a cumulative impact basis and where it does not believe it is reasonably practicable to do so shall give its reasons for forming that belief. 25
4. For the avoidance of doubt, the Fiscal Council may give its analysis of the effect a particular policy would have on the budgetary position of the general government as a single figure or a range of figures or either different figures or a range of figures based on different estimates or assumptions. 30
5. The Fiscal Council shall set out its own procedures for the submission of draft policies by qualifying political parties for analysis by the Fiscal Council, but those procedures shall operate within the following parameters:
 - (a) a draft policy submitted for consideration by a qualifying political party must be accompanied by draft costings together with a statement as to how those draft costings were reached; 35
 - (b) the Fiscal Council shall carry out an initial analysis, provide this to the qualifying political party in question on a confidential basis and allow the political party in question to respond; and 40
 - (c) having considered any response from the political party in question, if any, the Fiscal Council shall draft a final analysis which shall be provided to the political party in question on a

confidential basis.

6. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1997 or any other statute or regulation, the Fiscal Council may not provide access to or otherwise disclose the contents of their initial or final analysis except to the political party in question, save as follows: 5
 - (a) the Fiscal Council may publish its final analysis with the consent in writing of the political party in question;
 - (b) the Fiscal Council may publish all or part of its final analysis where it believes it is necessary to do so to correct any inaccurate statement made by the political party in question or a member or representative of same; and 10
 - (c) the Fiscal Council may publish the entirety of its final analysis where the political party in question has published it only in part, where the Fiscal Council believes it would be in the public interest to publish the entirety of its final analysis. 15
7. The Fiscal Council may set deadlines for the submission of draft policies for manifesto analysis or alternative Budget analysis and may either refuse to accept draft policies not submitted prior to the deadline in question or delay its analysis of such policies.
8. The Fiscal Council shall put in place such measures as it considers reasonable to ensure that it allocates resources to each qualifying political party in a fair and equal manner. This may include limitations as to the amount of individual policy analysis it makes available to each qualifying political party. 20
9. The Fiscal Council may designate certain periods of time as “closed periods” during which it will not carry out individual policy analysis so as to permit it to focus on manifesto analysis, alternative Budget analysis or its functions pursuant to section 8(2) of this Act. 25
10. In the performance of its functions under this Act, the Fiscal Council shall be entitled to reasonable assistance without charge from each government department.”. 30

Short title, collective citations and commencement

5. (1) This Act may be cited as the Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Act 2015.
- (2) The Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012 and this Act may be cited together as the Fiscal Responsibility Acts 2012 to 2015. 35
- (3) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister for Finance may by order appoint either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be so appointed for different purposes or different provisions.

An Bille um Fhreagracht Bhuiséadach
(Leasú), 2015

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do leasú chumhachtaí agus fheidhmeanna Chomhairle Chomhairleach Bhuiséadach na hÉireann i ndáil le tograí beartais ó pháirtithe polaitíochta a anailísiú; chun na críche sin, do leasú an Achta um Fhreagracht Bhuiséadach, 2012; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

*An Teachta Micheál Mac Craith a thug isteach,
9 Meitheamh, 2015*

Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill
2015

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

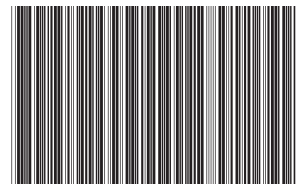
An Act to amend the powers and functions of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council in relation to the analysis of policy proposals of political parties; for that purpose, to amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012; and to provide for related matters.

*Introduced by Deputy Michael McGrath,
9th June, 2015*

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
52 FAICHE STIABHNA, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2.
(Tel: 01 - 6476834 nó 1890 213434; Fax: 01 - 6476843)
nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar.

DUBLIN
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased from
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS,
52 ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN 2.
(Tel: 01 - 6476834 or 1890 213434; Fax: 01 - 6476843)
or through any bookseller.

€1.27



978-1-4468-3063-5