



**An Bille um Gharchabhair agus Meabhairshláinte i
Scoileanna (Oiliúint Tosaigh ar Mhúinteoirí), 2018
First Aid and Mental Health in Schools
(Initial Teacher Training) Bill 2018**

*Meabhrán Míitheach
Explanatory Memorandum*



**AN BILLE UM GHARCHABHAIR AGUS MEABHAIRSHLÁINTE
I SCOILEANNA (OILIÚINT TOSAIGH AR MHÚINTEOIRÍ), 2018
FIRST AID AND MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS
(INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING) BILL 2018**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of this Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the introduction of a requirement that the initial training for trainee teachers must incorporate training in occupational first aid and also mental health first aid. It also provides that in order to secure a job, teachers will have to show that they have completed training in occupational first aid and also mental health first aid.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 defines seven key terms which are used in the Bill.

Section 2 empowers the Minister for Education and Skills to make regulations to prescribe certain matters (see for example *section 2(1)*), and also to enable the Act to have full effect. Regulations which are made under this section must be laid before each House of the Oireachtas.

Section 3(1) states that having consulted with the Teaching Council, the Minister for Education and Skills must introduce a requirement that training courses for new teachers must incorporate a prescribed level of training in occupational first aid response, and also mental health first aid. *Section 3(2)* states that when setting the requirement for occupational first aid response, and mental health first aid training, the Minister may provide guidance on the course syllabus. *Section 3(3)* goes on to set out some of the required elements of the syllabus relating to mental health first aid training.

Section 4 makes it clear that a school, including a pre-school, may not offer a person a position in that school unless that person has produced evidence of having successfully completed either, the initial training in occupational first aid and mental health first aid as provided for under *section 3*, or a course of training in occupational first aid and mental health first aid in accordance with *section 4* of the First Aid and Mental Health in Schools (Existing Teachers) Bill 2018, or else the person has undertaken the required refresher training in accordance with *section 5* of the First Aid and Mental Health in Schools (Existing Teachers) Bill 2018.

Section 5 states that it is the duty of each Board of Management to ensure that the school does not employ a person who has not produced evidence of successfully completing the required training.

Section 6(1) sets out the short title of the Bill. *Section 6(2)* provides for the commencement of this Bill. It states that with the exception of *sections 4* and *5*, the rest of the Bill comes into operation on 1 January

2019. *Sections 4 and 5* are to be commenced by way of a Ministerial order not sooner than 1 January 2021.

Senators Robbie Gallagher, Diarmuid Wilson and Keith Swanick, Bealtaine, 2018.