



An Bille um Shaoroideachas (Toirmeasc ar Tháillí agus ar Mhuirir), 2018
Free Education (Prohibition of Fees and Charges) Bill 2018

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



**AN BILLE UM SHAOROIDEACHAS (TOIRMEASC AR THÁILLÍ AGUS AR
MHUIRIR), 2018**
FREE EDUCATION (PROHIBITION OF FEES AND CHARGES) BILL 2018

Mar a tionscnaíodh
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ACTS REFERRED TO

Education Act 1998 (No. 51)

Education Acts 1878 to 2015



**AN BILLE UM SHAOROIDEACHAS (TOIRMEASC AR THÁILLÍ AGUS AR
MHUIRIR), 2018**
FREE EDUCATION (PROHIBITION OF FEES AND CHARGES) BILL 2018

Bill

entitled

5

An Act to prohibit recognised schools, subject to certain exceptions, from charging admission or enrolment fees or from otherwise seeking contributions from parents towards meeting the costs and expenses incurred in providing education at that school; and to provide for connected matters.

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

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Prohibition on charging fees and seeking contributions

1. The Education Act 1998 is amended by the insertion of the following:

“Prohibition on charging fees and seeking contributions

60. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a school or person acting on its behalf shall not:

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(a) charge fees in respect of—

(i) an application for admission of a student to the school, or

(ii) the enrolment or continued enrolment of a student in the school,

or

(b) otherwise request parents of students enrolled in that school to make any payment or contribution (howsoever described) towards meeting the costs and expenses incurred—

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(i) in providing education at that school, whether to their children or to students at the school generally, or

(ii) in respect of any school activities, whether organised for the benefit of their children or of students at the school generally.

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(2) Subsection (1)(b) does not prohibit a request by or on behalf of a school for voluntary contributions, towards meeting the costs and expenses incurred in providing education to students at the school generally, if it is clear from the terms in which the request is made that—

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(a) there is no obligation to make the contribution requested, or any

contribution, and

(b) students at the school will not be treated differently according to—

(i) whether or not a contribution in respect of a student has been made in response to the request, or

(ii) the amount of any contribution so made. 5

(3) This section does not apply in respect of—

(a) fees charged by a fee charging post primary school which is specified in a list of fee charging post primary schools published by the Minister from time to time,

(b) fees charged by a boarding school which is specified in a list of boarding schools published by the Minister from time to time, insofar as those fees relate to the cost of providing residential boarding places, or 10

(c) fees charged by schools that provide courses known as post leaving certificate courses, insofar as those fees relate to the cost of providing such courses. 15

(4) In this section—

‘school’ means a recognised school;

‘parent’, in relation to a student, includes a person acting in *loco parentis* who has the student in his or her care.”. 20

Short title and collective citation

2. (1) This Act may be cited as the Free Education (Prohibition of Fees and Charges) Act 2018.

(2) The Education Acts 1878 to 2015 and this Act may be cited together as the Education Acts 1878 to 2018. 25

An Bille um Shaoroideachas (Toirmeasc ar
Tháillí agus ar Mhuirir), 2018

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do thoirmeasc ar scoileanna aitheanta, faoi réir eisceachtaí áirithe, táillí maidir le ligean isteach nó rollú a mhuirearú nó ranníocaí a lorg ó thuismitheoirí thairis sin faoi chomhair íoc na gcostas agus na gcaiteachas arna dtabhú i soláthar an oideachais sa scoil sin; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe comhghaolmhara.

*Na Seanadóirí Aodhán Ó Riordáin, Ivana Bacik,
Caoimhín Mac Unfraidh agus Gearailt de Nais a
thug isteach,*

3 Bealtaine, 2018

Free Education (Prohibition of Fees and
Charges) Bill 2018

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to prohibit recognised schools, subject to certain exceptions, from charging admission or enrolment fees or from otherwise seeking contributions from parents towards meeting the costs and expenses incurred in providing education at that school; and to provide for connected matters.

*Introduced by Senators Aodhán Ó Riordáin, Ivana
Bacik, Kevin Humphreys and Gerald Nash,*

3rd May, 2018

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
52 FAICHE STIABHNA, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2.
(Teil: 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

ISBN 978-1-4468-6220-9



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