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**An Bille um Thrácht ar Bhóithre (Leasú) (Úsáid Scútar  
Leictreach), 2019**  
**Road Traffic (Amendment) (Use of Electric Scooters) Bill  
2019**

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*Meabhrán Míitheach*  
*Explanatory Memorandum*

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**AN BILLE UM THRÁCHT AR BHÓITHRE (LEASÚ) (ÚSÁID  
SCÚTAR LEICTREACH), 2019**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (USE OF ELECTRIC  
SCOOTERS) BILL 2019**

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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This Bill would set legal parameters for the safe use of scooters, which are an increasingly popular form of transport. At present, electric scooters are effectively illegal to use on Irish roads and are liable for seizure by members of An Garda Síochána. Furthermore, there is a requirement on these vehicles to be taxed and insured, as mechanically propelled vehicles, which is an onerous and expensive requirement.

This Bill removes the requirement for electric scooters and electric bikes to be taxed and insured by altering the definition of mechanically propelled vehicles.

The Bill permits the use of electric scooters on Irish roads, but it also lays down a number of safety requirements. First, the Bill sets a maximum speed of 25 km/h for electric scooters and requires all electric scooters to be fitted with a speed limitation device designed to prevent the vehicle from exceeding this speed. This is similar to the speed limits laid down in other European countries for electric scooters. The Bill also makes it an offence to ride an electric scooter without due consideration for the safety of others, which is already an offence for bike users. This places a requirement on electric scooter users to drive in a manner that is safe and respectful of all other road users. Electric scooter users will also have to wear helmets while they are riding electric scooters on public roads.

The Bill amends the Road Safety Authority Act 2006 in order to expand the Remit of the Road Safety Authority to make recommendations regarding the safe use of electric scooters. Furthermore, the Minister for Transport is empowered by the Act to make any necessary regulations regarding electric scooters. This will enable the Minister to draw up safety guidelines and laws around scooters, as new research emerges regarding them.

*Deputy Marc MacSharry*  
*Meán Fómhair, 2019*

