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**An Bille um Praghsáil Chothromasach ar Mhairteoil,  
2019**

**Equitable Beef Pricing Bill 2019**

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*Meabhrán Mínitheach*  
*Explanatory Memorandum*

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**AN BILLE UM PRAGHSÁIL CHOTHROMASACH AR  
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EQUITABLE BEEF PRICING BILL, 2019**

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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**General**

The purpose of the Bill is to ensure an equitable price for beef to farmers operating in that sector; and to abolish the 30-month rule concerning cattle.

**Provisions**

**Section 1**

This section sets out definitions. It defines “price” as “the consideration paid or to be paid to the farmer concerned”.

**Section 2**

This section outlines that beef shall not be purchased from a farmer for a price less than the minimum amount prescribed by the Minister, which shall not be less than the relevant average break-even point most recently published by Teagasc. This section stipulates that the Minister must consider the need to ensure that farming in the beef sector be a sustainable means of earning a livelihood and the consideration which consumers may be reasonably be expected to pay for beef products.

This section provides for the Minister to prescribe different minimum prices for different classes of beef. This section outlines the right of either House of the Oireachtas to annul an order by the Minister.

This section outlines the penalties for a person convicted of contravening the provisions of *section 2* of the Bill.

**Section 3**

This section sets out that a person acting in the course of business shall not subject beef over the age of 30 months to treatment less favourable to a farmer than treatment to which beef below that age would be subject. This section outlines the penalties for a person convicted of contravening the provisions of *section 3* of the Bill.

**Section 4**

This section sets out that each provision of this Bill shall cease to be in operation one year after its coming into operation, except where a resolution is passed by each House of the Oireachtas before the expiry of that provision, resolving that that provision should continue in operation.

**Section 5**

This section outlines the title of the Bill and the right of the Minister to commence the Bill on a set date.

*Deputy Peadar Tóibín*

*Deireadh Fomhair, 2019.*