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**Bille Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Comhaltáí Ollscoile) (Leasú), 2020**  
**Seanad Electoral (University Members) (Amendment) Bill 2020**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

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**BILLE TOGHCHÁIN AN tSEANAID (COMHALTAÍ OLLSCOILE) (LEASÚ), 2020  
SEANAD ELECTORAL (UNIVERSITY MEMBERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

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ACTS REFERRED TO

Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 1999 (No. 26)

Seanad Electoral (University Members) Act 1937 (No. 30)

Seanad Electoral (University Members) Acts 1937 to 2006



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**BILLE TOGHCHÁIN AN tSEANAID (COMHALTAÍ OLLSCOILE) (LEASÚ), 2020  
SEANAD ELECTORAL (UNIVERSITY MEMBERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020**

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# Bill

*entitled*

An Act to provide for the amendment of the Seanad Electoral (University Members) Acts 1937 to 2006, to provide for the provisions of the seventh amendment of Bunreacht na hÉireann and to extend the franchise of the university panel of Seanad Éireann to all people who are over eighteen and are holders of an appropriate third level qualification from an Irish Institute of Higher Education and to provide for related matters. 5

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:** 10

## **Interpretation**

1. In this Act—

“framework of qualifications” has the meaning assigned to it by section 7 of the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 1999;

“Minister” means the Minister for Local Government; 15

“Principal Act” means the Seanad Electoral (University Members) Act 1937;

“University Constituency” and the “Universities Constituencies” means all graduates of universities in the State, and of institutions of Higher Education in the State, as determined by the Minister.

**Amendment of section 6 of Act of 1937** 20

2. The Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following for section 6:

“6. (1)(a) All Universities in the State, and Institutions of Higher Education in the State as provided for by the Minister, shall be a constituency (in this Act referred to as the University Constituency) for the election of six members of Seanad Éireann, 25

(b) every person who is for the time being registered as an elector in the register of electors for the University Constituency shall be entitled to vote in that constituency,

(c) the Minister may make regulations to give effect to any matter or thing that is referred to in this Act, and 30

(d) every regulation made under this Act shall be laid before each

House of the Oireachtas as soon as may be after it is made and, if a resolution annulling the regulation is passed by either such House within the next twenty-one days on which that House has sat after the regulation is laid before it, the regulation shall be annulled accordingly but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder. 5

(2) No person shall be entitled to vote at an election in the University Constituency unless he or she is registered as an elector in the register of electors for the constituency.

(3) Nothing in this section shall entitle any person to vote in the University Constituency while he or she is prohibited by law from so voting, nor shall anything in this section relieve any person from any penalties to which he or she may be liable for so voting.”. 10

### **Amendment of section 7 of Act of 1937**

3. The Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following for section 7: 15

“7. (1) Every person who is a citizen of Ireland who has received a degree or diploma (other than an honorary degree or diploma) from an institution in the State as recognised by the Minister and has attained the age of eighteen years shall be entitled to be registered as an elector in the register of electors for the university constituency. 20

(2) The qualification of ‘degree’ referred in subsection (1) shall be construed as defined by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) or its successor bodies.

(3) The qualification of ‘diploma’ referred in subsection (1) shall be construed as defined by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) or its successor bodies. 25

(4) Any person, who would not be disqualified for membership of the Dáil under section 41 of the Electoral Act 1992, and may vote in that University Constituency, may declare their candidacy in that constituency.”. 30

### **Short title and commencement**

4. (1) This Act may be cited as the Seanad Electoral (University Members)(Amendment) Act 2020.

(2) The Seanad Electoral (University Members) Act 1937 and this Act may be cited together as the Seanad Electoral (University Members) Acts 1937 to 2020. 35

(3) This Act shall come into operation one month after its passing.



Bille Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Comhaltaí  
Ollscoile) (Leasú), 2020

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# BILLE

*(mar a tionscnaíodh)*

*dá ngairtear*

Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le hAchtanna Toghcháin an tSeanaid (Comhaltaí Ollscoile), 1937 go 2006 a leasú, chun socrú a dhéanamh maidir le forálacha an seachtú leasú ar Bhunreacht na hÉireann agus chun toghchóras rolla ollscoile Sheanad Éireann a leathnú chuig na daoine go léir atá os cionn ocht mbliana déag agus ar sealbhóirí iad ar cháilíocht tríú leibhéal chuí ó Fhoras Ardoideachais in Éirinn agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

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*Na Seanadóirí Maolcholm O'Broin, Séan Ó  
Caisealáin agus Páid Ó Cathasaigh a thug isteach,*

*16 Iúil, 2020*

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Seanad Electoral (University Members)  
(Amendment) Bill 2020

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# BILL

*(as initiated)*

*entitled*

An Act to provide for the amendment of the Seanad Electoral (University Members) Acts 1937 to 2006, to provide for the provisions of the seventh amendment of Bunreacht na hÉireann and to extend the franchise of the university panel of Seanad Éireann to all people who are over eighteen and are holders of an appropriate third level qualification from an Irish Institute of Higher Education and to provide for related matters.

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*Introduced by Senators Malcolm Byrne, Shane  
Cassells and Pat Casey,*

*16th July, 2020*

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