



AN BILLE UM CHOMHIONANNAS TUAITHE, 2021
RURAL EQUALITY BILL 2021

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of Bill

The Rural Equality Bill provides that public bodies have regard to the desirability of reducing socio-economic and other inequalities suffered by those living in Rural Ireland. The Bill seeks to ensure that rural impact assessments are undertaken on any measures likely to have a socio-economic impact or effect on rural Ireland.

Provisions of Bill

Section 1 provides for definitions within the Bill.

Section 2 provides for public bodies to submit a rural impact scheme to the Minister. The scheme shall state the likely socio-economic impact of a proposed or adopted measure. It shall specify a timetable for measures proposed. The Minister will approve the scheme with or without modification or request a revised scheme.

Section 3 provides that public bodies will state the aims of the measure in relation to the assessment giving consideration to measures which might mitigate any socio-economic impact or any alternative measures which may better achieve the aim of reducing socio-economic and other inequalities suffered by those in rural Ireland.

Section 4 provides for the Minister to publish guidelines to be complied with by public bodies, as soon as practicable, in such form that he or she deems appropriate, specifying the date they shall come into operation.

Section 5 provides that public bodies will exercise its functions in a way that is aimed at reducing inequalities which result in socio-economic disadvantage, considering any guidelines set by the Minister.

Section 6 provides that an annual report shall be presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee by the Minister.

Section 7 provides for the citation of the Bill and related matters.

Claire Kerrane TD,

Martin Kenny TD,

Martin Browne TD,

Feabhra, 2021.