



DÁIL ÉIREANN

**AN BILLE UM BEARTA ÉIGEANDÁLA MAIDIR LE COSTAIS
LEICTREACHAIS AGUS FORÁLACHA ILGHNÉITHEACHA
(CUNTAIS LEICTREACHAIS TÍ), 2022
ELECTRICITY COSTS (DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY
ACCOUNTS) EMERGENCY MEASURES AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BILL 2022**

**LEASUITHE COISTE
COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

DÁIL ÉIREANN

AN BILLE UM BEARTA ÉIGEANDÁLA MAIDIR LE COSTAIS LEICTREACHAIS AGUS FORÁLACHA ILGHNÉITHEACHA (CUNTAIS LEICTREACHAIS TÍ), 2022 —AN COISTE

ELECTRICITY COSTS (DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTS) EMERGENCY MEASURES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BILL 2022 —COMMITTEE STAGE

Leasuithe Amendments

SECTION 1

1. In page 4, line 23, after “2023;” to insert the following:

“or

(d) any other dates the Minister may prescribe;”.

—Darren O’Rourke.

2. In page 4, line 27, to delete “30 June 2023” and substitute “30 June 2025”.

—Darren O’Rourke.

SECTION 2

3. In page 5, to delete line 5.

—Darren O’Rourke.

4. In page 5, between lines 17 and 18, to insert the following:

“(5) The Minister will establish a committee to look into ways by which future schemes, in relation to the provision of electricity costs emergency benefit payments, are allocated in a targeted manner direct at individuals most vulnerable to fuel poverty or who are financially vulnerable. The Committee shall include, but not limited to, representatives of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, the energy industry, and poverty and disability groups.”.

—Jennifer Whitmore.

5. In page 5, between lines 17 and 18, to insert the following:

“(5) The Minister shall identify those households who did not receive the original electricity costs emergency benefit payment under the first Electricity Costs Emergency Benefit Scheme, and make provision to ensure such households receive the payments under the Electricity Costs Emergency Benefit Scheme II and outstanding payments not received under the original Electricity Costs Emergency Benefit Scheme.

[SECTION 2]

- (6) Any underspend from the monies allocated to this scheme, shall be made available to local authorities and charities working to alleviate energy poverty, for distribution of cash payments to financially vulnerable households.
- (7) The Minister shall make provision in the Electricity Costs Emergency Benefit Scheme II to identify those who own holiday homes or multiple properties and put in place a mechanism to ensure such individuals do not receive more than one electricity costs emergency benefit payments.
- (8) The Minister shall make provision in the Electricity Costs Emergency Benefit Scheme II to ensure those who do not need the financial support from the electricity costs emergency benefit payment, can inform their electricity supplier to redirect their electricity costs emergency benefit payment to a charity that supports and helps those living in energy poverty.
- (9) The Minister may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, make any such regulations as necessary for the purposes of providing further electricity costs emergency benefit payments to individuals, identified by the Minister as being particularly exposed to the impact of the exceptional rise in energy costs. In this regard, the Minister shall engage with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and MABS on the levels of need for assistance with heating and electricity costs they are currently experiencing in order to ascertain the need for a discretionary fund to assist those in utility debt, targeting those who need additional support most.”.

—Darren O’Rourke.

SECTION 3

6. In page 5, between lines 17 and 18, to insert the following:

“Final customer not occupier

3. (1) Where, in respect of a domestic electricity account, a person other than the final customer is liable to make payments to the final customer in respect of sums due under that account, the final customer shall ensure that the benefit of an electricity costs emergency benefit payment is transferred to and received by that other person.
- (2) In a case where the persons referred to in *subsection (1)* are the landlord and the tenant of a dwelling to which the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 applies, a dispute between them arising from that subsection may be referred to the Board for resolution under section 76 of that Act.”.

—Ivana Bacik.

SECTION 4

7. In page 5, between lines 35 and 36, to insert the following:

- “(b) identify vacant, derelict and holiday homes using data on low electricity usage at these properties, and ensure these properties do not receive an electricity costs emergency benefit payment,
- (c) identify households who share an electricity meter, and ensure each individual household receives the full amount of the electricity costs emergency benefit

[SECTION 4]

payment.”.

—Darren O’Rourke.

SECTION 5

8. In page 7, line 22, to delete “31 December 2023” and substitute “31 December 2025”.

—Darren O’Rourke.

9. In page 7, between lines 27 and 28, to insert the following:

- “(3) At the request of the Minister, an electricity supplier shall credit pre-pay meters with an electricity costs emergency benefit payment in advance of the prescribed payment periods.
- (4) Electricity suppliers shall remove any arrears limits placed on pre-pay meters until the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications directs otherwise.
- (5) An electricity supplier shall not disconnect a household using a pre-pay meter during a moratorium on disconnections.”.

—Darren O’Rourke.

SECTION 6

10. In page 8, between lines 10 and 11, to insert the following:

“Functions of Commission in relation to Pre-Pay Customers

9R. The following shall be functions of the Commission:

- (a) to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the distribution system operator and electricity suppliers have in place such administrative and operational arrangements that the Commission considers necessary or expedient to ensure that all domestic pre-pay customers are at all times able to use electricity in their home, irrespective of the level of credit in their account;
- (b) to report to the Minister, at such intervals as are agreed by the Commission and the Minister, in relation to the performance by the distribution system operator and electricity suppliers in regard to subsection (a) of this section.”.

—Brid Smith, Paul Murphy, Richard Boyd Barrett, Gino Kenny.

SECTION 7

11. In page 8, line 14, to delete “**192K.** (1) An electricity” and substitute “**192JA.** (1) An electricity”.

—An tAire Airgeadais.

TITLE

12. In page 3, lines 11 and 12, to delete “during the period commencing on the date of the passing of this Act and ending on 30 June 2023”.

—Darren O’Rourke.

[TITLE]

13. In page 3, line 15, after “suppliers;” to insert the following:

“to remove the arrears limits on pre-pay meters and prohibit the disconnection of pre-pay metered households during a moratorium on disconnections;”.

—Darren O’Rourke.