



SEANAD 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**

SEANAD 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

**Government amendments are denoted by an asterisk*

SECTION 1

1. In page 4, to delete lines 3 to 11, and substitute the following:

“ “non-vacant, non-holiday home domestic electricity account” means an electricity account in respect of which a meter point registration number has been assigned and which—

- (a) is held by a final customer with an electricity supplier,
- (b) is identified by the distribution system operator as being subject to distribution use of system charges at the rate for urban domestic customers (DG1) or the rate for rural domestic customers (DG2) set out in the publication known as the “ESB Networks Schedule of Distribution Use of System Charges” approved by the Commission and for the time being in place, and
- (c) is responsible for more than 500kWh of consumption in the preceding 12 months and more than 80kWh in the preceding 2 months and is therefore neither a vacant property nor a holiday home;”.

—*Senators Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield.*

2. In page 4, line 16, after “customer” ”, to insert “, subject to *subsection (2)#*”.

[#This is a reference to a subsection proposed to be inserted by amendment No.3]

—*Senators Marie Sherlock, Annie Hoey, Rebecca Moynihan, Mark Wall.*

3. In page 4, after line 29, to insert:

“(2) Where a person is supplied with electricity at more than one premises (each being a single premises within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Act of 1999), the person may elect in the prescribed manner to be treated as a final customer in respect of one only of such premises.”.

—*Senators Marie Sherlock, Annie Hoey, Rebecca Moynihan, Mark Wall.*

[SECTION 1]

4. In page 4, between lines 29 and 30, to insert the following:

“(2) The references in *section 2(3)(c)* and *(d)*, *section 3(2)*, *section 4(1)(a)* and *(e)(i)*, and *section 5(2)*, to a “domestic electricity account” shall each be construed as meaning a reference to a “non-vacant, non-holiday home domestic account” as defined in this Act.”

—*Senators Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield.*

SECTION 2

5. In page 5, between lines 14 and 15, to insert the following:

“(e) The Minister shall request information additional to that notified to him or her in accordance with *section 4(1)(b)*, including information in respect of the use of standing charges on domestic electricity accounts and where there have been changes to such standing charges, the rationale for such changes and what monies accrued by such charges are utilised for.”

—*Senator Alice-Mary Higgins.*

6. In page 5, between lines 14 and 15, to insert the following:

“(e) The Minister shall put in place a dispute resolution mechanism to resolve any disputes arising from homes that are not vacant or not holiday homes but were denied benefit of the Electricity Costs Emergency Benefit Scheme II.”

—*Senators Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield.*

SECTION 3

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

“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 paragraph may be referred to the Board for resolution under *section 76* of that Act.”

—*Senators Marie Sherlock, Annie Hoey, Rebecca Moynihan, Mark Wall.*

SECTION 5

8. 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.

[SECTION 5]

- (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.”.

—*Senators Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield.*

SECTION 8

9. In page 9, between lines 6 and 7, to insert the following:

“(4) Without prejudice to the generality of *subsection (1)*, where there is an increase of over €50 in standing charges on domestic electricity accounts, the Minister shall consider options and may make regulations under this section providing for the setting of a regulatory threshold for such increases.”.

—*Senator Alice-Mary Higgins.*

SECTION 10

10. In page 9, between lines 22 and 23, to insert the following:

“Report on transition to renewable energy

10. The Minister shall, within 2 months of the passing of this Act, lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas outlining the potential for payments to be made under the Scheme for the purpose of supporting households who are currently reliant on gas or oil based systems to transition to renewable energy sources.”.

—*Senator Alice-Mary Higgins.*

11. In page 9, between lines 22 and 23, to insert the following:

“Report on reduction of costs of renewable energy

10. The Minister shall, within 4 months of the passing of this Act, lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas outlining the potential further and complementary policy measures to address the volatility of energy costs for households including but not limited to decoupling of gas and renewable electricity prices and a windfall tax on electricity suppliers.”.

—*Senator Alice-Mary Higgins.*

12. In page 9, between lines 22 and 23, to insert the following:

“Report on access to Scheme for individual households

10. The Minister shall, within 2 months of the passing of this Act, lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas outlining the measures taken to ensure that individual households, where such households share a meter point reference number, are entitled to the full payment under the Scheme.”.

—*Senator Alice-Mary Higgins.*

[SECTION 13]

SECTION 13

- 13.** In page 10, line 11, to delete “Domestic Electricity Accounts” and substitute “Non-Vacant, Non-Holiday Home Domestic Electricity Accounts”.

—*Senators Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield.*

TITLE

- 14.** In page 3, line 12, to delete “domestic electricity account” and to substitute “non-vacant, non-holiday home domestic electricity accounts”.

—*Senators Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield.*

- 15.** 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 prepay metered households during a moratorium on disconnections;”.

—*Senators Lynn Boylan, Paul Gavan, Niall Ó Donnghaile, Fintan Warfield.*