



**An Bille um Rialáil Leictreachais (Leasú) (Custaiméirí atá Soghonta ó thaobh
Airgid de a Chosaint), 2023**

**Electricity Regulation (Amendment) (Protection of Financially Vulnerable
Customers) Bill 2023**

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



**AN BILLE UM RIALÁIL LEICTREACHAIS (LEASÚ) (CUSTAIMÉIRÍ ATÁ
SOGHONTA Ó THAOBH AIRGID DE A CHOSAIN), 2023
ELECTRICITY REGULATION (AMENDMENT) (PROTECTION OF FINANCIALLY
VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS) BILL 2023**

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated

CONTENTS

Section

1. Definitions
2. Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act
3. Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act
4. Ministerial Regulations
5. Short title and commencement

ACT REFERRED TO

Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (No. 23)



**AN BILLE UM RIALÁIL LEICTREACHAIS (LEASÚ) (CUSTAIMÉIRÍ ATÁ
SOGHONTA Ó THAOBH AIRGID DE A CHOSAINT), 2023
ELECTRICITY REGULATION (AMENDMENT) (PROTECTION OF FINANCIALLY
VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS) BILL 2023**

Bill

5

entitled

An Act to amend the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 to include the definition of “vulnerable customers” in relation to the functions of the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities; and to allow the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications to make regulations to that effect.

10

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

Definitions

1. In this Act—

“Minister” means the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications;

“Principal Act” means the Electricity Regulation Act 1999.

15

Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act

2. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended, in subsection (1), by the insertion of the following definition:

“ ‘vulnerable customer’ means a household customer who is—

- (a) critically dependent on electrically powered equipment, which shall include but is not limited to life protecting devices, assistive technologies to support independent living and medical equipment,
- (b) particularly vulnerable to disconnection during winter months for reasons of advanced age or physical, sensory, intellectual or mental health, or
- (c) in receipt of social welfare income supports;”.

20

25

Amendment of section 9 of Principal Act

3. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended, in subsection (5)—

(a) in paragraph (c), by the insertion of the following after “elderly”:

“and those at risk of energy poverty”,

30

and

(b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (e):

“(ea) ensuring the protection of financially vulnerable customers and those at risk of energy poverty,”.

Ministerial Regulations

5

4. The Minister may issue regulations to direct the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities to take account of the definition of “vulnerable customer”, as defined in section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (as amended by the *Electricity Regulation (Amendment) (Protection of Financially Vulnerable Customers) Act 2023*) upon commencement of this Act to be considered by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities as part of its duties pursuant to the protection of utility customers. 10

Short title and commencement

5. (1) This Act will be cited as the Electricity Regulation (Amendment) (Protection of Financially Vulnerable Customers) Act 2023.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may appoint by order or orders either generally or with reference to any particular event. 15

An Bille um Rialáil Leictreachais (Leasú)
(Custaiméirí atá Soghonta ó thaobh Airgid de
a Chosaint), 2023

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do leasú an Achta um Rialáil Leictreachais,
1999 chun an míniú ar “custaiméirí soghonta” a
áireamh i ndáil le feidhmeanna an Choimisiúin
um Rialáil Fónais; agus dá cheadú don Aire
Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
rialacháin a dhéanamh chuige sin.

An Teachta Jennifer Whitmore a thug isteach,
21 Feabhra, 2023

Electricity Regulation (Amendment)
(Protection of Financially Vulnerable
Customers) Bill 2023

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to amend the Electricity Regulation Act 1999
to include the definition of “vulnerable
customers” in relation to the functions of the
Commission for the Regulation of Utilities; and
to allow the Minister for Environment, Climate
and Communications to make regulations to that
effect.

Introduced by Deputy Jennifer Whitmore,
21st February, 2023

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
BÓTHAR BHAILE UÍ BHEOLÁIN, CILL MHAIGHNEANN,
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8, D08 XAO6.
Teil: 046 942 3100
r-phost: publications@opw.ie
nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar.

DUBLIN
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased from
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS,
MOUNTSHANNON ROAD, KILMAINHAM,
DUBLIN, D08 XAO6.
Tel: 046 942 3100
Email: publications@opw.ie
or through any bookseller.

€1.27

