



An Bille um Chúnamh Dlíthiúil (Leasú), 2023
Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill 2023

Meabhrán Miniúcháin
Explanatory Memorandum



AN BILLE UM CHÚNAMH DLÍTHIÚIL (LEASÚ), 2023
LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to provide wider access to civil legal aid and to ensure that all citizens can have adequate access to justice.

Background

Mr. Justice Henchy is considering legal aid said that a legal-aid certificate is the shield provided against unjust attack on the constitutional rights of citizens. The provision of civil legal aid has up to now been more restricted and harder to access than criminal legal aid. This Bill amends the criteria in relation to civil legal aid to make it easier to access.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 provides for interpretation of the Bill and provide clarity as to the measures in the Bill.

Section 2 provides for amendment of the criteria for obtaining legal aid.

Section 3 provides for changes to Financial eligibility and contributions towards cost of legal aid and advice.

Section 4 provides for short title and for matters relating to commencement of the legislation.

Patrick Costello TD,

Aibreán, 2023.