An Bille um an Aonú Leasú is Daichead ar an mBunreacht (An Aois Vótála a Laghdú go Sé Bliana Déag), 2025

Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Reduction of Voting Age to Sixteen Years) Bill 2025

Meabhrán Míniúcháin

Explanatory Memorandum

FORTY-FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION (REDUCTION OF VOTING AGE TO SIXTEEN YEARS) BILL 2025

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of the Bill

The ambition of the Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Reduction of the Voting Age to Sixteen Years) Bill 2025 is to provide for a legislative pathway for the reduction of the age at which a person may vote from 18 to 16 years of age in this State.

Background

In the past, there have been campaigns and calls from advocacy groups and others to lower the voting age in this jurisdiction from 18 to 16 years of age.

Some of our nearest neighbours have voting ages of 16.

In Scotland, 16-year-olds had an option to vote in their referendum for independence in 2014. In Wales, 16-year-olds had the opportunity to vote in elections for the Welsh Parliament.

Our youth should also have those choices to participate in a democratic process that we value dearly.

One of the recommendations to come out of the 2012-2014 Convention on the Constitution was to reduce the voting age to 16.

Government was to consider reducing the voting age for Local and European elections in time for the 2024 elections, this Bill seeks to facilitate that.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 provides for the amendment of Article 16.1.2° of the Constitution by providing for a reduction from 18 years to 16 years as the minimum age at which a person may vote at an election for members of Dáil Éireann.

Section 2 is a standard form provision and specifies that the constitutional amendment shall be called the Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution and that the proposed Act may be cited as the Forty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Reduction of Voting Age to Sixteen Years) Act 2025.

Aidan Farrelly, TD,
May, 2025.

AN BILLE UM AN AONÚ LEASÚ IS DAICHEAD AR AN mBUNREACHT (AN AOIS VÓTÁLA A LAGHDÚ GO SÉ BLIANA DÉAG), 2025

MEABHRÁN MÍNIÚCHÁIN

Cuspóir an Bhille

Is é an scóip atá faoin Aonú Leasú is Daichead ar an mBunreacht (An Aois Vótála a Laghdú go Sé Bliana Déag), 2025, socrú a dhéanamh maidir le conair reachtach chun an aois ag a bhféadfaidh duine vótáil a laghdú ó 18 mbliana d’aois go 16 bliana d’aois sa Stát seo.

Cúlra

D’eagraigh grúpaí tathanta agus grúpaí eile feachtais roimhe seo chun go ndéanfaí, agus d’éiligh siad go ndéanfaí, an aois vótála sa dlínse seo a ísliú ó 18 mbliana d’aois go 16 bliana d’aois.

Is í 16 bliana d’aois an aois vótála atá ag roinnt de na comharsana is giorra dúinn.

In Albain, bhí rogha ag daoine a raibh 16 bliana d’aois slánaithe acu vótáil i reifreann na tíre sin ar an neamhspleáchas a reáchtáladh sa bhliain 2014. Sa Bhreatain Bheag, bhí deis ag daoine a raibh 16 bliana d’aois slánaithe acu vótáil i dtoghcháin do *Senedd Cymru*.

Ba cheart go mbeadh an rogha ag daoine óga na tíre seo freisin páirt a ghlacadh i bpróiseas daonlathach a bhfuil meas an domhain againn air.

Ar cheann de na moltaí a d’eascair as obair an Choinbhinsiúin ar an mBunreacht, 2012 - 2014, bhí an moladh go ndéanfaí an aois vótála a laghdú go 16 bliana.

Bhí i gceist ag an Rialtas breithniú a dhéanamh i dtaobh an aois vótála a laghdú i gcomhair toghcháin Áitiúla agus Eorpacha in am do thoghcháin 2024 agus féachtar leis an mBille seo an méid sin a éascú.

Forálacha an Bhille

Foráiltear le *halt 1* go ndéanfar Airteagal 16.1.2° den Bhunreacht a leasú trí shocrú a dhéanamh maidir leis an aois íosta ag a bhféadfaidh duine vótáil i dtoghchán comhaltaí do Dháil Éireann a laghdú ó 18 mbliana go 16 bliana.

Foráil i bhfoirm chaighdeánach is ea *alt 2* agus sonraítear ann go dtabharfar an tAonú Leasú is Daichead ar an mBunreacht ar an leasú bunreachta agus go bhféadfar an tAcht um an Aonú Leasú is Daichead ar an mBunreacht (An Aois Vótála a Laghdú go Sé Bliana Déag), 2025, a ghairm den Acht beartaithe.

Aodán Ó Fearghaile, TD,

Bealtaine, 2025.