



An Bille um Ladrainn a Rialáil, 2025
Regulation of Drones Bill 2025

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



AN BILLE UM LADRAINN A RIALÁIL, 2025
REGULATION OF DRONES BILL 2025

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ACTS REFERRED TO

Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (No. 7)

Planning and Development Act 2024 (No. 34)



AN BILLE UM LADRAINN A RIALÁIL, 2025
REGULATION OF DRONES BILL 2025

Bill

entitled

An Act to provide for the regulation in the public interest of the private and commercial use of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones; to create an additional consideration for issuance of a National Planning Statement; to require local authorities to prepare objectives for the management of unmanned aircraft system operations; to permit any person, a local authority or the Environmental Protection Agency make a complaint to the District Court with respect to the emission of noise from certain privately or commercially operated unmanned aircraft system or systems causing annoyance; to amend the Planning and Development Act 2024; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (as amended); and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

Interpretation

1. In this Act—

“Act of 2024” means the Planning and Development Act 2024;

“Minister” means the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Amendment of section 2 of Planning and Development Act 2024

2. Section 2 of the Act of 2024 is amended by the insertion of the following definition after the definition of “unauthorised works”:

“ ‘unmanned aircraft system’ means an unmanned aircraft and the equipment to control it remotely;”.

Amendment of section 26 of Planning and Development Act 2024

3. Section 26 of the Act of 2024 is amended, in subsection (1), by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (q):

“(r) the objective of the regulation of the private and commercial operation of unmanned aircraft systems in the public interest, in a

consistent manner across each planning authority area, and subject to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1139¹.”.

Obligation to prepare objectives for effective management of private and commercial operation of unmanned aircraft systems

4. The Act of 2024 is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 51: 5
- “51A. (1) A planning authority shall prepare objectives for the effective management of the private and commercial operation of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones, for the purposes of—
- (a) ensuring the private and commercial use of unmanned aircraft systems is prioritised in favour of operations in the public interest, namely: 10
- (i) operations related to medical need or urgency;
- (ii) operations related to archeological or other heritage related investigation; 15
- (iii) operations related to building or site safety or survey;
- (iv) operations related to industrial or commercial safety or inspection;
- (v) wildlife conservation purposes;
- (vi) operations related to an emergency or urgent threat to life and/or property, or public safety; 20
- (vii) other such operations deemed to be in the public interest,
- and
- (b) limiting the environmental impact of emissions of noise or vibration deriving from the private and commercial use of unmanned aircraft systems operations not specified in paragraph (a). 25
- (2) A planning authority, in preparation of objectives under this section, shall ensure consistency with the policies, measures and guidance contained in the National Planning Statement created under section 25 of this Act.”. 30

Amendment of Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992

5. (1) Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 is amended, in subsection (4), by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (a):
- “(a) aircraft, not including unmanned aircraft systems used for private or commercial purposes,”. 35

1 OJ L 180, 4.7.2019, pp. 12–14

- (2) Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (4):

“(5) For the purposes of this section, ‘unmanned aircraft system’ has the same meaning as it has in the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended).”.

5

Short title and commencement

6. (1) This Act may be cited as the Regulation of Drones Act 2025.

- (2) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may by order or orders appoint either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be appointed for different purposes or different provisions.

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BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le rialáil a dhéanamh, ar mhaithe le leas an phobail, ar an úsáid phríobháideach agus tráchtála a bhaintear as córais aerárthaí gan foireann, dá ngairtear ladrainn go coitianta; do chumadh cúinse breise chun Ráiteas Náisiúnta Pleanála a eisiúint; dá cheangal ar údarais áitiúla cuspóirí a ullmhú chun oibríochtaí córais aerárthaí gan foireann a bhainistiú; dá cheadú d'aon duine, d'údarás áitiúil nó don Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil gearán a dhéanamh leis an gCúirt Dúiche maidir le torann, is cúis le crá, a bhíonn ag córas nó córais aerárthaí áirithe gan foireann a oibrítear go príobháideach nó ar bhonn tráchtála; do leasú an Achta um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2024; do leasú an Achta fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, 1992 (arna leasú); agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

An Teachta Ruaidhrí Mac Gormáin a thug isteach,
15 Deireadh Fómhair, 2025

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to provide for the regulation in the public interest of the private and commercial use of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones; to create an additional consideration for issuance of a National Planning Statement; to require local authorities to prepare objectives for the management of unmanned aircraft system operations; to permit any person, a local authority or the Environmental Protection Agency make a complaint to the District Court with respect to the emission of noise from certain privately or commercially operated unmanned aircraft system or systems causing annoyance; to amend the Planning and Development Act 2024; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (as amended); and to provide for related matters.

Introduced by Deputy Roderic O'Gorman,
15th October, 2025

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó

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