



**An Bille um Rialáil Leictreachais (Leasú) (Buanmhuirir),
2026**
**Electricity Regulation (Amendment) (Standing Charges)
Bill 2026**

Meabhrán Míniúcháin
Explanatory Memorandum



**AN BILLE UM RIALÁIL LEICTREACHAIS (LEASÚ)
(BUANMHUIRIR), 2026
ELECTRICITY REGULATION (AMENDMENT) (STANDING
CHARGES) BILL 2026**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of Bill An Act to amend the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 to give the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) the legislative remit required to effectively monitor and regulate standing charges on electricity and gas bills, and to provide for related matters.

Standing charges are applied to gas and electricity bills to cover the fixed costs of utility companies connecting and maintaining these services to households.

However, these levies are currently unregulated, with the Commission for Regulation of Utilities confirming to the Oireachtas Climate Committee, that they lack the legal remit to investigate the rates of standing charges being imposed by gas and electricity providers.

This Bill would provide a legislative basis for the CRU to effectively monitor and investigate standing charges. It would ensure standing charges can only be applied to cover the fixed costs of utility companies and not used as a mechanism to increase profits.

This Bill would empower the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities to investigate utility companies suspected of using standing charges to increase profits, rather than just cover their fixed costs, and require those suppliers found with excessive rates, to decrease their standing charge to a level sufficient to cover their fixed costs only.

This Bill would also require utility companies to seek prior approval from the CRU for any proposed increase in the rate of standing charges

Pa Daly TD, Darren O'Rourke TD, Réada Cronin TD, Louis O'Hara TD, Márta, 2026.