



SEANAD ÉIREANN

AN BILLE UM BONNEAGAR RÍTHÁBHACHTACH, 2026 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE BILL 2026

LEASUITHE COISTE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

SEANAD ÉIREANN

AN BILLE UM BONNEAGAR RÍTHÁBHACHTACH, 2026 —AN COISTE

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE BILL 2026 —COMMITTEE STAGE

Leasuithe Amendments

**Government amendments are denoted by an asterisk*

SECTION 1

1. In page 3, to delete lines 26 to 31 and substitute the following:

“ “infrastructure” means any infrastructure that enables essential facilities and systems of the State to function effectively and includes, but is not limited to—

- (a) housing,
- (b) health facilities,
- (c) transport facilities, including ports and airports, and transport systems, including roads and railways,
- (d) energy generation, transmission and distribution systems, and
- (e) water supply, wastewater and waste management systems;”.

—*Senator Conor Murphy.*

SECTION 3

2. In page 5, to delete lines 22 to 26 and substitute the following:

“(4) A draft of the designation order shall be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas, and the order shall not be made unless a resolution approving the draft has been passed by each House.”.

—*Senators Patricia Stephenson, Alice-Mary Higgins.*

3. In page 5, to delete lines 22 to 26 and substitute the following:

“(4) A designation order shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas as soon as may be after it is made, and the order shall not have effect until a resolution approving it has been passed by each such House.”.

—*Senators Laura Harmon, Nessa Cosgrove.*

4. In page 5, between lines 26 and 27, to insert the following:

“(5) The Minister shall lay a report before Dáil Éireann on the rationale, criteria, decision making process used to draft the designation order as soon as may be after it is made.”.

—*Senators Patricia Stephenson, Alice-Mary Higgins.*

[SECTION 5]

SECTION 5

5. In page 5, line 40, after “completed” to insert “and to comply with relevant binding time-limits that will be issued by the Minister within four weeks of the passage of this Act”.

—*Senator Conor Murphy.*

SECTION 6

6. In page 7, to delete lines 8 to 10.

—*Senators Laura Harmon, Nessa Cosgrove.*

7. In page 7, between lines 16 and 17, to insert the following:

“(6) Where a relevant public body is stated in law or is otherwise required by law to be independent in the performance of some or all of its functions, the power to give a direction in writing under this section shall not be exercised so as to override, compromise or otherwise interfere with the independent performance of those functions.”.

—*Senators Laura Harmon, Nessa Cosgrove.*

SECTION 7

Section opposed.

—*Senators Patricia Stephenson, Laura Harmon, Nessa Cosgrove, Alice-Mary Higgins.*

SECTION 9

8. In page 7, between lines 32 and 33, to insert the following:

“Report on permitting process

9. The Minister shall, within 6 months of the passing of this Act, lay a report before Dáil Éireann on the feasibility of streamlining permitting processes for large infrastructure projects, so as to identify what permits can be applied for concurrently in order to save time and reduce costs.”.

—*Senators Patricia Stephenson, Alice-Mary Higgins.*

9. In page 7, between lines 32 and 33, to insert the following:

“Report on net contribution clauses

9. The Minister shall, within 6 months of the passing of this Act, lay a report before Dáil Éireann on the potential impacts of introducing net contribution clauses to public construction contracts, so as to facilitate greater competition and access to smaller engineering and architecture firms.”.

—*Senators Patricia Stephenson, Alice-Mary Higgins.*