



An Bille um Chearta Atáirgthe (Leasú), 2026
Reproductive Rights (Amendment) Bill 2026

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



**AN BILLE UM CHEARTA ATÁIRGTHE (LEASÚ), 2026
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026**

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CONTENTS

Section

1. Definitions
2. Clarity in regards to risk to life or health
3. Terminations for medical reasons
4. Ministerial guidelines for risk to life or health of mother and terminations for medical reasons
5. Removal of 3 day waiting period
6. Ending criminalisation of medical professionals
7. Conscientious objection
8. Ministerial review
9. Short title, citation and commencement

ACT REFERRED TO

Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 (No. 31)



**AN BILLE UM CHEARTA ATÁIRGTHE (LEASÚ), 2026
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026**

Bill

entitled

An Act to enact recommendations of the Marie O’Shea report into the operation of legislation on the termination of pregnancy, providing clarity on terminations for medical reasons, removal of the 3 day waiting period, and ending the criminalisation of doctors. 5

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

Definitions 10

1. In this Act—

“Act of 2018” means the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018;

“Minister” refers to the Minister of Health.

Clarity in regards to risk to life or health

2. The Act of 2018 is amended, in section 9, by the substitution of “A termination of pregnancy may be carried out in accordance with this section where medical practitioner(s), having examined the pregnant woman, are of the reasonable opinion formed in good faith on knowledge available to them at the time of making the determination that—” for “A termination of pregnancy may be carried out in accordance with this section where 2 medical practitioners, having examined the pregnant woman, are of the reasonable opinion formed in good faith that—”. 15
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Terminations for medical reasons

3. The Act of 2018 is amended—

(a) in section 11, by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):

“(1) A termination of pregnancy may be carried out in accordance with this section where 2 medical practitioners, at least one having examined the pregnant woman, and having regard to the woman’s case notes, are of the reasonable opinion formed in good faith on knowledge available to them at the time of making the determination that there is present a fatal condition affecting the foetus.”, 25
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(b) in section 16(2), by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (b):

“(b) there is present a fatal condition affecting the foetus,”.

Ministerial guidelines for risk to life or health of mother and terminations for medical reasons

4. The Act of 2018 is amended—

(a) in section 9, by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (4): 5

“(5) Within 6 months of the commencement of this Act, the Minister will, in consultation with service providers, issue guidelines to provide clarity to medical professionals in carrying out procedures under section 9 of this Act.”,

(b) in section 10, by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2): 10

“(3) Within 6 months of the commencement of this Act, the Minister will, in consultation with service providers, issue guidelines to provide clarity to medical professionals in carrying out procedures under section 10 of this Act.”,

and 15

(c) in section 11, by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (4):

“(5) Within 6 months of the commencement of this Act, the Minister will, in consultation with service providers, issue guidelines to provide clarity to medical professionals in carrying out procedures under section 11 of this Act.”. 20

Removal of 3 day waiting period

5. Section 12 of the Act of 2018 is amended—

(a) by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (3):

“(3) Medical practitioners are obliged to inform the pregnant woman that she has a statutory right to a reflection period, which she may exercise, at her own discretion.”, 25

and

(b) by the deletion of subsection (4).

Ending criminalisation of medical professionals

6. The Act of 2018 is amended— 30

(a) in section 17, by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (7):

“(7) Medical practitioners and former medical practitioners are obligated to comply with subsection (1).”,

(b) in section 23, by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (7):

“(8) Subsections (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7) shall not apply to medical practitioners as defined by this Act.”, 35

and

(c) in section 24, by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):

“(1) A body corporate has an obligation to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and orders issued under this Act.”.

Conscientious objection

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7. Section 22 of the Act of 2018 is amended, by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (4):

“(5) This section does not override a medical practitioner, nurse, or midwife’s professional and legal duty to provide prompt and appropriate medical assistance to any person in a medical emergency.”.

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Ministerial review

8. The Minister shall, not later than 3 years after the commencement of this Act, commence an independent review of the operation of the Act of 2018.

Short title, citation and commencement

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9. (1) This Act may be cited as the Reproductive Rights (Amendment) Act 2026.

(2) This Act shall come into operation upon its passage.

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht d'achtú moltaí ó thuarascáil Marie O'Shea i dtaobh oibriú na reachtaíochta maidir le foirceannadh toirchis, lena dtugtar soiléireacht maidir le foirceantaí ar chúiseanna liachta, lena gcuirtear deireadh leis an tréimhse feithimh 3 lá, agus lena gcuirtear deireadh le dochtúirí a choiriúlú.

An Teachta Holly Ní Chiaráin a thug isteach,

28 Aibreán, 2026

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to enact recommendations of the Marie O'Shea report into the operation of legislation on the termination of pregnancy, providing clarity on terminations for medical reasons, removal of the 3 day waiting period, and ending the criminalisation of doctors.

Introduced by Deputy Holly Cairns,

28th April, 2026

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