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**An Bille um Thoirmeasc ar Chórais Arm Uathrialaitheacha Mharfacha, 2026**  
**Prohibition of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems Bill 2026**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

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**AN BILLE UM THOIRMEASC AR CHÓRAIS ARM UATHRIALAITHEACHA  
MHARFACHA, 2026  
PROHIBITION OF LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS BILL 2026**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh  
As initiated*

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AN BILLE UM THOIRMEASC AR CHÓRAIS ARM UATHRIALAITHEACHA  
MHARFACHA, 2026  
PROHIBITION OF LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS BILL 2026

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# Bill

*entitled*

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An Act to give effect to the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production, transfer, development and investment in autonomous weapons systems.

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:**

## Definitions

1. In this Act—

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“attack” means to use force against, neutralize, damage, or destroy;

“Autonomous Weapons Systems” means any weapon system with autonomy in its critical functions, that is, a weapon system that can select and attack targets without human intervention. The fact that a human operator sets the target or targets that the system is programmed to select and attack, or the parameters that comprise a target profile, does not exclude the system from the characterisation as an autonomous weapons system;

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“investor” means a person or body responsible for the investment of public moneys owned by a Minister of the Government;

“select” means to search for, detect, identify, track, or other process by which a system scans an environment for potential targets and matches a person or object against a pre-determined target profile.

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## Prohibition of Autonomous Weapons Systems

2. Subject to *section 5*, a person or body corporate who—

(a) tests, develops, produces, otherwise acquires, stockpiles, sells, deploys, retains or transfers autonomous weapons systems,

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(b) uses autonomous weapons systems,

(c) acquires or disposes of pre-products for the development and production of autonomous weapons systems, or

(d) transports or transfers autonomous weapons, or components thereof, within the jurisdiction of the State including in the territorial waters, airspace, and exclusive economic zone of the State,

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is guilty of an offence.

### **Investment of public moneys**

3. (1) Nothing in any enactment that authorises the investment of public moneys shall be taken to authorise any investment, direct or indirect, in autonomous weapons systems.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other enactment, an investor, in the performance of any function conferred on it by or under any enactment, shall endeavour to avoid the investment of public moneys in autonomous weapons systems. 5

### **Permitted conduct**

4. *Section 2* does not apply to—
- (a) a member of the Defence Forces in the course of their duties for the purpose of—
- (i) rendering those autonomous weapons systems non-operational and the training there or, 10
- (ii) the future destruction of that autonomous weapons system,
- (b) a member of the Garda Síochána—
- (i) in the exercise of any power conferred by law on that member to seize and retain an autonomous weapons system with any criminal proceedings, or 15
- (ii) for the purpose of delivering that autonomous weapons system to the Defence Forces for destruction,
- or
- (c) by any other person appointed by the Minister by warrant in writing, in the course of that person's duties for the purpose of delivering those autonomous weapons systems to the Defence Forces for destruction. 20

### **Penalties**

5. (1) A person guilty of an offence under *section 2* is liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding €5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both, or 25
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or both.
- (2) A body corporate guilty of an offence under *section 2* is liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding €5,000, or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €1,000,000. 30

### **Liability for offences committed by body corporate**

6. (1) Where an offence under this Act is committed by a body corporate and is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any person who, when the offence was committed, was a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or a person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, that person, as well as the body 35

corporate, is guilty of an offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished as if guilty of the offence committed by the body corporate.

- (2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, *subsection (1)* has effect as if “director” included a member of the body corporate.

### **Forfeiture**

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7. (1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under *section 2* anything used for the purposes of, or in connection with, the commission of the offence shall be forfeited to the State and delivered to the Defence Forces for destruction.

- (2) Where an autonomous weapons system is to be delivered to the Defence Forces for destruction under *subsection (1)*, the court shall, unless it is satisfied that there are special and substantial reasons for not doing so, order the convicted person to pay the costs and expenses, measured by the court, to be incurred by the Defence Forces in relation to arranging such destruction.

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- (3) An order for costs and expenses under *subsection (2)* is in addition to and not instead of any fine or penalty the court might impose under *section 5*.

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### **Short title and commencement**

8. (1) This Act may be cited as the Prohibition of Autonomous Weapons Systems Act 2026.

- (2) This Act shall come into effect three months after its passing.

An Bille um Thoirmeasc ar Chórais Arm  
Uathrialaitheacha Mharfacha, 2026

# BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do thabhairt éifeacht do thoirmeasc ar chórais arm uathrialaitheacha a úsáid, a stoc-charnadh, a tháirgeadh, a aistriú, a fhorbairt agus ar infheistíocht a dhéanamh iontu.

An Seanadóirí Ailís-Máire Ní Uiginn, Lynn NíRuáin,  
Eibhlín Ní Fhloinn agus Proinséas Ní Dhuibh a thug  
isteach,

27 Bealtaine, 2026

Prohibition of Lethal Autonomous Weapons  
Systems Bill 2026

# BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to give effect to the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production, transfer, development and investment in autonomous weapons systems.

Introduced by Senators Alice-Mary Higgins, Lynn Ruane, Eileen Flynn and Frances Black,

27th May, 2026

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