



An Bille Cosanta (Leasú), 2026
Defence (Amendment) Bill 2026

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



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ACTS REFERRED TO

Adoptive Leave Act 1995 (No. 2)
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Defence (Amendment) Act 2006 (No. 20)
Defence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 (No. 35)
Defence Act 1954 (No. 18)
Interpretation Act 2005 (No. 23)
Maternity Protection Act 1994 (No. 34)
Ombudsman (Defence Forces) Act 2004 (No. 36)
Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 (No. 20)
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (No. 10)



**AN BILLE COSANTA (LEASÚ), 2026
DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026**

Bill

entitled

An Act to provide for the despatch and deployment for service outside the State of members of the Defence Forces; to provide, in certain circumstances, for the suspension of members of the Defence Forces; to provide, in certain circumstances, for the dismissal of officers of the Defence Forces; for these and other purposes to amend the Defence Act 1954 and certain other enactments; and to provide for related matters. 5

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows: 10

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Defence (Amendment) Act 2026.
- (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 so appointed for different purposes or different provisions. 15

Definitions

2. In this Act— 20
 - “Act of 1960” means the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960;
 - “Minister” means the Minister for Defence;
 - “Principal Act” means the Defence Act 1954.

Repeals

3. (1) Each of the following is repealed: 25
 - (a) the Act of 1960;
 - (b) the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006;

- (c) sections 61(4) and 70(5) of the Principal Act.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, the repeal of the Act of 1960 and the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006 by *paragraphs (a) and (b)* respectively of *subsection (1)* shall not operate to abrogate, or otherwise affect the operation of, the amendment of any enactment (within the meaning of the Interpretation Act 2005) effected by either of those Acts. 5

PART 2

AMENDMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACT

Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act

- 4. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following definitions: 10
 - “ ‘international organisation’ means—
 - (a) the United Nations,
 - (b) the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe,
 - (c) the European Union or any institution or body of the European Union, or 15
 - (d) any other regional arrangement or body that operates in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law;
 - ‘relevant international force’ means an international force or body established, mandated, authorised, endorsed, supported, approved or otherwise sanctioned by an international organisation;” 20

Amendment of section 5 of Principal Act

- 5. Section 5 of the Principal Act is amended—
 - (a) by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):
 - “(1) A person subject to military law shall, for the purposes of this Act, be on active service— 25
 - (a) during any period during which an order made under subsection (2) of this section is in force,
 - (b) whenever he or she is attached to or forms part of a force which is engaged in operations against an enemy, 30
 - (c) whenever he or she is engaged in military operations in a place wholly or mainly occupied by an enemy, or
 - (d) whenever he or she, as a member of the Defence Forces, is serving outside the State as part of a relevant international force, while so serving, 35

and the expression ‘on active service’ when used in this Act in relation to a person subject to military law shall be construed accordingly.”,

and

(b) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (1):

“(1A) A member of the Defence Forces who, pursuant to section 4 of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960 was deemed to be on active service immediately before the repeal of that Act by *section 3(1)(a)* of the *Defence (Amendment) Act 2026* and who, on and after the commencement of the said *section 3(1)(a)*, continues to serve outside the State as part of a relevant international force, shall while so serving be deemed to be on active service under this section.”

Amendment of section 17A of Principal Act

6. Section 17A of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) by the deletion of the definitions of “Act of 2006”, “international force” and “International United Nations Force”, and

(ii) by the substitution of the following definition for the definition of “Force Commander”:

“ ‘Force Commander’ means the person commanding a relevant international force;”,

and

(b) in subsection (4)—

(i) in paragraph (c)—

(I) by the substitution of “a relevant international force” for “an international force”, and

(II) by the substitution of “the relevant international force” for “the international force”,

(ii) in paragraph (d), by the substitution of “a relevant international force” for “the international force”, and

(iii) in paragraph (e), by the substitution of “a relevant international force” for “the international force”.

Suspension of officer

7. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 46:

“46A.(1) The prescribed military authority may, subject to subsection (2), suspend from duty an officer who holds a rank below the rank of major-general for any of the following reasons:

(a) the officer has been charged with a criminal offence;

- (b) the officer has been convicted of a criminal offence;
 - (c) the officer is the subject of an investigation under section 177;
 - (d) the officer has been convicted by a court-martial of an offence against military law;
 - (e) the prescribed military authority is satisfied that the officer may have behaved in a manner likely to bring discredit on the Defence Forces; 5
 - (f) the prescribed military authority is satisfied that the officer has engaged in conduct that may be contrary to the interests of national security. 10
- (2) The prescribed military authority may suspend an officer under this section only where the prescribed military authority is satisfied that such suspension is necessary—
- (a) in the public interest,
 - (b) to maintain public confidence in the Defence Forces, or 15
 - (c) for the purposes of an investigation under section 177.
- (3) Where the prescribed military authority proposes to suspend an officer under this section, the prescribed military authority shall—
- (a) inform the officer in the prescribed manner of the reason under subsections (1) and (2) for the proposed suspension, 20
 - (b) provide the officer with an opportunity, within a prescribed period, to make representations in the prescribed manner regarding the proposed suspension, and
 - (c) consider, within a prescribed period, any representations made under paragraph (b). 25
- (4) Where, having taken into account the representations (if any) made under subsection (3), the prescribed military authority decides to suspend an officer, he or she shall notify that officer in the prescribed manner of the decision and the reason under subsections (1) and (2) for the suspension. 30
- (5) The Minister may by regulations prescribe the following matters:
- (a) the manner in which and period within which the officer is informed of the proposed suspension under subsection (3)(a);
 - (b) the manner in which and period within which representations may be made under subsection (3)(b); 35
 - (c) the period within which any representations made under subsection (3)(b) shall be considered under subsection (3)(c);
 - (d) the date on which the suspension from duty shall take effect;
 - (e) the period or periods, as the case may be, of suspension;

- (f) the appointment of the military authority in respect of each rank of officer concerned;
 - (g) the periodic review of the suspension of an officer;
 - (h) the remuneration of an officer during a period of suspension;
 - (i) any restrictions in relation to employment outside of the Defence Forces that may apply to an officer during a period of suspension; 5
 - (j) the procedures to be followed in relation to the suspension of an officer under this section.
- (6) Regulations under subsection (5) may contain such incidental, supplementary and consequential provisions as appear to the Minister to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the regulations. 10
- (7) The Chief of Staff shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Minister of the suspension of an officer under this section.
- (8) This section shall not apply to the Director or a military judge.”.

Amendment of section 50 of Principal Act 15

8. The Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following section for section 50:

- “50. (1) The President may, in accordance with this section, dismiss an officer for any of the following reasons:
- (a) the officer has been convicted of a criminal offence;
 - (b) the officer has engaged in conduct that has brought discredit on the Defence Forces; 20
 - (c) the dismissal is necessary for the purpose of safeguarding national security.
- (2) Before an officer may be dismissed under subsection (1), the Chief of Staff shall— 25
- (a) inform the officer in the prescribed manner of the reason under subsection (1) for the proposed dismissal,
 - (b) provide the officer with an opportunity, within a prescribed period, to make representations in the prescribed manner regarding the proposed dismissal, and 30
 - (c) consider, within a prescribed period, any representations made under paragraph (b).
- (3) The Chief of Staff may, having taken into account the representations (if any) referred to in subsection (2), make a recommendation to the Minister in relation to the proposed dismissal, including the reason under subsection (1) for the proposed dismissal, and provide to the Minister any information relevant to the recommendation. 35
- (4) The Minister shall consider a recommendation made under subsection (3), and where he or she considers it appropriate to do so,

shall recommend to the Government that it advise the President to dismiss the officer concerned.

- (5) An officer who is dismissed shall cease to be an officer.
- (6) This section shall not apply to the Director or a military judge.”.

Officer charged with criminal offence 5

9. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 52:

“52A.(1) An officer who is charged with committing a criminal offence shall—

- (a) as soon as practicable, inform his or her commanding officer that he or she has been charged with committing a criminal offence and of the charge concerned, and 10
- (b) keep his or her commanding officer informed of any significant developments relating to the charge, including by giving advance notice of any dates on which the officer is required to attend before a civil court.
- (2) A commanding officer referred to in subsection (1) shall, as soon as practicable, in the prescribed manner provide the information referred to in that subsection to the relevant prescribed military authority prescribed for the purposes of section 46A. 15
- (3) In this section, a reference to ‘commanding officer’ shall be read as a reference to the Minister in respect of the following officers: 20
 - (a) the Chief of Staff;
 - (b) the Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations);
 - (c) the Deputy Chief of Staff (Support);
 - (d) the Director;
 - (e) a military judge.”. 25

Amendment of section 61 of Principal Act

10. Section 61 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in subsection (2)(b)(ia), by the substitution of “a relevant international force” for “an International United Nations Force”,
- (b) in subsection (3), by the substitution of “a relevant international force” for “an International United Nations Force”, and 30
- (c) in subsection (5), by the substitution of “a relevant international force or for any purpose specified in section 337” for “an International United Nations Force or for any purpose specified in section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”.

Suspension of enlisted person 35

11. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 62:

- “62A.(1) The prescribed military authority may, subject to subsection (2), suspend from duty an enlisted person for any of the following reasons:
- (a) the enlisted person has been charged with a criminal offence;
 - (b) the enlisted person has been convicted of a criminal offence;
 - (c) the enlisted person is the subject of an investigation under section 177, 178 or 179; 5
 - (d) the enlisted person has been convicted by court-martial of an offence against military law;
 - (e) the prescribed military authority is satisfied that the enlisted person may have behaved in a manner likely to bring discredit on the Defence Forces; 10
 - (f) the prescribed military authority is satisfied that the enlisted person has engaged in conduct that may be contrary to the interests of national security.
- (2) The prescribed military authority may suspend an enlisted person under this section only where the prescribed military authority is satisfied that such suspension is necessary— 15
- (a) in the public interest,
 - (b) to maintain public confidence in the Defence Forces, or
 - (c) for the purposes of an investigation under section 177, 178 or 179. 20
- (3) Where the prescribed military authority proposes to suspend an enlisted person under this section, the prescribed military authority shall—
- (a) inform the enlisted person in the prescribed manner of the reason under subsections (1) and (2) for the proposed suspension, 25
 - (b) provide the enlisted person with an opportunity, within a prescribed period, to make representations in the prescribed manner regarding the proposed suspension, and
 - (c) consider, within a prescribed period, any representations made under paragraph (b). 30
- (4) Where, having taken into account the representations (if any) made under subsection (3), the prescribed military authority decides to suspend an enlisted person, the prescribed military authority shall notify that enlisted person in the prescribed manner of the decision and the reason under subsections (1) and (2) for the suspension. 35
- (5) The Minister may by regulations prescribe the following matters:
- (a) the manner in which and period within which the enlisted person is informed of the proposed suspension under subsection (3)(a);
 - (b) the manner in which and period within which representations may be made under subsection (3)(b); 40

- (c) the period within which any representations made under subsection (3)(b) shall be considered under subsection (3)(c);
 - (d) the date on which the suspension from duty shall take effect;
 - (e) the period or periods, as the case may be, of suspension;
 - (f) the appointment of the military authority in respect of each non-commissioned army and naval rank; 5
 - (g) the periodic review of the suspension of an enlisted person;
 - (h) the remuneration of an enlisted person during a period of suspension;
 - (i) any restrictions in relation to employment outside of the Defence Forces that may apply to an enlisted person during a period of suspension; 10
 - (j) the procedures to be followed in relation to the suspension of an enlisted person under this section.
- (6) Regulations under subsection (5) may contain such incidental, supplementary and consequential provisions as appear to the Minister to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the regulations. 15
- (7) The Chief of Staff shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Minister of the suspension of an enlisted person under this section.
- (8) In this section and section 62B, ‘enlisted person’ means— 20
- (a) a person enlisted under section 53 or 54,
 - (b) a person who was formerly enlisted in the Permanent Defence Force re-enlisted under section 53A, or
 - (c) a person enlisted under section 55.”.

Enlisted person charged with criminal offence 25

12. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 62A (inserted by *section 11*):

- “62B. (1) An enlisted person who is charged with committing a criminal offence shall—
- (a) as soon as practicable, inform his or her commanding officer that he or she has been charged with committing a criminal offence and of the charge concerned, and 30
 - (b) shall keep his or her commanding officer informed of any significant developments relating to the charge, including by giving advance notice of any dates on which the enlisted person is required to attend before a civil court. 35
- (2) A commanding officer referred to in subsection (1) shall, as soon as practicable, in the prescribed manner provide the information referred

to in subsection (1) to the prescribed military authority prescribed for the purposes of section 62A.”.

Amendment of section 70 of Principal Act

13. Section 70 of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (3)(b)—

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(i) by the substitution of “a relevant international force or for any purpose specified in section 337” for “an International United Nations Force or for any purpose specified in section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”, and

(ii) in subparagraph (i), by the substitution of “a relevant international force or for any purpose specified in section 337” for “an International United Nations Force or for any purpose specified in section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”,

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and

(b) in subsection (4)(b), by the substitution of “a relevant international force or for any purpose specified in section 337” for “an International United Nations Force or for any purpose specified in section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006” in both places where it occurs.

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Amendment of section 75(1) of Principal Act

14. Section 75(1) of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of “or while serving outside the State as part of a relevant international force or for any purpose specified in section 337,” after “period of emergency.”.

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Amendment of section 120(2) of Principal Act

15. Section 120(2) of the Principal Act is amended, in paragraph (a), by the substitution of “section 337” for “section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”.

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Amendment of section 123 of Principal Act

16. Section 123 of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1), by the substitution of “section 337” for “section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”, and

(b) in subsection (1B)(b), by the substitution of “section 337” for “section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”.

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Amendment of section 135(2) of Principal Act

17. Section 135(2) of the Principal Act is amended, in paragraph (a)(i), by the substitution of “section 337” for “section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”.

Amendment of section 169 of Principal Act

18. Section 169 of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (3)(b), by the substitution of “while the person so convicted was despatched for service outside the State as part of a relevant international force under section 336 or for any purpose specified in section 337” for “while the person so convicted was on active service outside the State or despatched for service outside the State under section 2 of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960 or for any purpose specified in section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”, and

(b) by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (4):

“(4) The circumstance referred to in subsection (1) is that the offence was committed by a person subject to military law who was not, when the offence was committed, despatched for service outside the State—

(a) as part of a relevant international force under section 336, or

(b) for any purpose specified in section 337.”.

Amendment of section 192(3) of Principal Act

19. Section 192(3) of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution of “unless the offence was committed while the person was on active service in accordance with section 5(1)(d) or despatched for service outside the State for any purpose specified in section 337 when the offence was committed” for “unless the offence was committed while the person was on active service outside the State or despatched for service outside the State under section 2 of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960 or for any purpose specified in section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006 when the offence was committed.”.

Amendment of section 248 of Principal Act

20. Section 248 of the Principal Act is amended, in paragraph (d)(iiA), by the substitution of “as part of a relevant international force under section 336 or for any purpose specified in section 337” for “with an International United Nations Force or for any purpose referred to in section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”.

Service outside State by contingent or member of Defence Forces

21. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following Part after section 335:

“PART XIV

SERVICE OUTSIDE STATE BY MEMBERS OF DEFENCE FORCES

Service outside State by contingent or member of Defence Forces as part of relevant international force

336. (1) Subject to subsection (2), where a relevant international force operates for the purpose of peace-keeping, peace-enforcement or conflict prevention consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United

Nations, a contingent or member of the Defence Forces may be despatched for service outside the State as part of the relevant international force.

- (2) Subject to subsections (3) and (5), a contingent or member of the Defence Forces shall not be despatched under subsection (1) other than— 5
- (a) with the prior approval of the Government, and
 - (b) in the case of a contingent, where Dáil Éireann has, on a proposal by the Minister, passed a resolution approving the despatch for service of the contingent. 10
- (3) Where a resolution under subsection (2)(b) has been passed by Dáil Éireann in respect of a particular contingent of the Defence Forces, a subsequent resolution of Dáil Éireann shall not be required for the purposes of despatching for service a contingent intended to replace, in whole or in part, that contingent. 15
- (4) A contingent or member of the Defence Forces may, with the prior approval, and on the authority, of the Government, be despatched for service outside the State as part of a force to be assembled or embarked before being deployed as part of a relevant international force provided that the contingent or member is not so deployed until Dáil Éireann has passed a resolution approving the despatch for service of the contingent under subsection (2)(b). 20
- (5) A contingent or member of the Defence Forces may, with the prior approval, and on the authority, of the Government, be despatched for service outside the State as part of a relevant international force without a resolution approving of such despatch having been passed by Dáil Éireann under subsection (2)(b) where— 25
- (a) the contingent consists of not more than 50 members of the Defence Forces, or
 - (b) the contingent is intended to replace, in whole or in part, a contingent referred to in paragraph (a). 30
- (6) Notwithstanding subsection (5)(a), where a contingent is despatched under subsection (5)(b), the contingent may, for a period of not more than 30 days from the date on which the contingent commander of the replacement contingent takes over from the contingent commander of the original contingent, consist of more than 50 members of the Defence Forces. 35
- (7) A member of the Reserve Defence Force shall not be despatched under this section unless that member has consented to the despatch in accordance with section 86A or 91A, as the case may be. 40
- (8) A contingent or member of the Defence Forces who was serving outside the State as part of an international United Nations Force in accordance with section 2 of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act

1960 immediately before the repeal of that Act by *section 3(1)(a)* of the *Defence (Amendment) Act 2026* shall, on and after the commencement of the said *section 3(1)(a)*, continue to serve outside the State as part of a relevant international force under this section.

- (9) The Minister shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable, inform in writing the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee with responsibility for the Department of Defence of the following: 5
- (a) the despatch of a member or contingent of not more than 50 members of the Defence Forces for service outside the State as part of a relevant international force; 10
 - (b) where a contingent is despatched, the number of members of the Defence Forces that the contingent referred to in paragraph (a) consists of;
 - (c) the duties carried out by the member or contingent referred to in paragraph (a). 15

Service outside State of contingent or member of Defence Forces for purpose other than service as part of relevant international force

337. (1) A contingent or member of the Defence Forces may, with the prior approval, and on the authority, of the Government, be despatched for service (other than as part of a relevant international force) outside the State for any of the following purposes: 20
- (a) undertaking civilian evacuation operations in response to an actual or potential disaster or emergency;
 - (b) undertaking military close protection duties or military security duties; 25
 - (c) carrying out duties as a military representative or filling appointments or postings outside the State, including secondments to an international organisation;
 - (d) conducting, or participating in, training;
 - (e) carrying out ceremonial duties, participating in exchanges or undertaking visits; 30
 - (f) undertaking monitoring, observation or advisory duties;
 - (g) participating in, or undertaking, reconnaissance or fact-finding missions;
 - (h) participating in sporting events; 35
 - (i) inspecting stores, equipment or facilities;
 - (j) evaluating stores, equipment or facilities;
 - (k) undertaking humanitarian tasks (other than civilian evacuation operations) in relation to an actual or potential disaster or emergency. 40

- (2) A member of the Reserve Defence Force shall not be despatched under subsection (1)—
- (a) subject to paragraph (b), unless the member has consented to the despatch in accordance with section 86A or 91A, as the case may be, and 5
- (b) for any purpose specified in paragraph (c) of that subsection.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Government from giving general approval and authority, for such period as they may determine, to such class or classes of the activities specified in paragraphs (c) to (k) of subsection (1) as they consider appropriate and subject to such conditions as they may impose. 10
- (4) A contingent or member of the Defence Forces who was serving outside the State for a purpose mentioned in section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006 before the repeal of that Act by *section 3(1)(b)* of the *Defence (Amendment) Act 2026* shall, on and after the commencement of the said *section 3(1)(b)*, continue to serve outside the State under this section. 15
- (5) In this section—
- ‘international military exercise’ means an exercise in which the Defence Forces and the defence forces of one or more states (other than the State) come together to train or to exercise a particular capability or set of capabilities; 20
- ‘military close protection duties’ means personal security duties carried out in an actual or potential hostile environment or area of conflict in respect of: 25
- (a) the President;
- (b) members of the Government;
- (c) public officials accompanying a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), as the case may be;
- (d) members of the Defence Forces not below the rank of major-general or equivalent naval rank; 30
- ‘military security duties’ means security duties carried out in an actual or potential hostile environment or area of conflict for the purpose of providing protection to an embassy of the State;
- ‘training’ means any programme or course of education, training or exercises and includes seminars, strategic and planning exercises and international military exercises. 35

Deployment of State ship or service aircraft outside State

- 338.** (1) A State ship or service aircraft may, with the prior approval of the Government, be deployed outside the State for the purpose of participating in international activities to counter drug trafficking by sea and air. 40

- (2) In subsection (1), ‘international activities’ means activities outside the State and includes training for the purpose of improving the capacity of states other than the State to counter drug trafficking and observation and monitoring duties related to the countering of drug trafficking.

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Liability of certain members of Permanent Defence Force for service outside State

339. (1) Without prejudice to section 85 and subject to subsections (2) and (3), every member of the Permanent Defence Force shall be liable to serve outside the State—

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(a) as part of a contingent or as a member of the Permanent Defence Force despatched for service as part of a relevant international force, or

(b) as part of a contingent or as a member despatched for service for any purpose specified in section 337.

15

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a member of the Permanent Defence Force appointed or enlisted before 1 July 1993 shall not be liable to serve outside the State with a contingent of the Permanent Defence Force despatched for service outside the State as part of a relevant international force.

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(3) A member of the Permanent Defence Force, specified in subsection (2), may offer in writing to render himself or herself liable to serve outside the State during a specified period as part of a relevant international force and where the Minister or an officer authorised in that behalf by the Minister has accepted such an offer, subsection (1) shall apply to that member during that period.

25

Membership of international organisation

340. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorising the State to become a member of an international organisation of which the State is not already a member.

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Annual report to Dáil Éireann

341. (1) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after 1 January in each year, make a report to Dáil Éireann on the operation in the preceding year of section 336.

(2) A report made under subsection (1) shall include the following information:

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(a) details of the service of a contingent or member of the Defence Forces as part of a relevant international force during the preceding year;

(b) where reporting on the service of a contingent, the number of members of the Defence Forces that the contingent referred to in paragraph (a) consists of and the duties carried out by that contingent;

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- (c) a review of the operation of each relevant international force referred to in paragraph (a) including an overview of the duties carried out by the relevant international force and any significant developments during the preceding year affecting the operation of the relevant international force; 5
 - (d) the Minister’s assessment as to whether or not the relevant international force referred to in paragraph (a) continues to operate for the purposes set out in section 336(1).
- (3) Dáil Éireann may by resolution approve of the report made under subsection (1).” 10

PART 3

AMENDMENTS OF OTHER ACTS OF OIREACHTAS

Amendment of section 5 of Defence (Amendment) Act 1990

22. Section 5 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 1990 is amended by the substitution of “as part of a relevant international force or for any purpose specified in section 337 of the Principal Act” for “whether with an International United Nations Force (within the meaning of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960) or in accordance with section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”. 15

Amendment of section 15A(3) of Maternity Protection Act 1994

23. Section 15A(3) of the Maternity Protection Act 1994 is amended, in paragraph (a)(i), by the deletion of “or deemed to be on active service within the meaning of section 4(1) of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960”. 20

Amendment of section 11A(2) of Adoptive Leave Act 1995

24. Section 11A(2) of the Adoptive Leave Act 1995 is amended, in paragraph (a)(i), by the deletion of “or deemed to be on active service within the meaning of section 4(1) of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960”. 25

Amendment of section 3(1A) of Organisation of Working Time Act 1997

25. Section 3(1A) of the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 is amended—
- (a) by the deletion of paragraph (b),
 - (b) in paragraph (c), by the substitution of “subsection (1) of section 337 of the Defence Act 1954 for any purpose referred to in paragraph (d), (f), (g) or (k) of that subsection” for “subsection (1) of section 3 of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006 for any purpose referred to in paragraph (b), (d), (e) or (f)”, and 30
 - (c) in paragraph (i)—

- (i) in subparagraph (iii), by the substitution of “section 5(1)(d) of the Defence Act 1954” for “section 4(1) of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960”, and
- (ii) in subparagraph (iv), by the substitution of “subsection (1) of section 337 of the Defence Act 1954 for any purpose referred to in paragraph (d), (f), (g) or (k) of that subsection” for “section 3(1) of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006 for any purpose referred to in paragraph (b), (d), (e) or (f) of that subsection”. 5

Amendment of section 1 of Ombudsman (Defence Forces) Act 2004

26. Section 1 of the Ombudsman (Defence Forces) Act 2004 is amended, in the definition of “military operation”, by the deletion of paragraph (b). 10

Amendment of section 6(2) of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005

27. Section 6(2) of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 is amended, in paragraph (a), by the deletion of “or deemed to be on active service within the meaning of section 4(1) of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960”. 15

Amendment of Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Mines Act 2008

28. The Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Mines Act 2008 is amended—

(a) in section 2—

- (i) by the substitution of the following definition for the definition of “international organisation”: 20

“ ‘international organisation’ has the same meaning as it has in section 2 of the Defence Act 1954;”,

- (ii) by the insertion of the following definition:

“ ‘relevant international force’ has the same meaning as it has in section 2 of the Defence Act 1954;”, 25

and

- (iii) by the deletion of the definition of “International United Nations Force”,

and

(b) in section 7(4)—

- (i) in paragraph (a), by the substitution of “a relevant international force to which the State has contributed a contingent of the Permanent Defence Force in accordance with section 336 of the Defence Act 1954” for “an International United Nations Force to which the State has contributed a contingent of the Permanent Defence Force in accordance with section 2 of the Defence (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1960”, and 30

- (ii) in paragraph (b), by the substitution of “section 337(1)(c) of the Defence Act 1954” for “section 3(1)(a) of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2006”. 35

Amendment of Defence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009

29. The Defence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 is amended—

(a) in section 1(1), by the insertion of the following definitions:

“ ‘ international organisation’ means—

- (a) the United Nations, 5
- (b) the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe,
- (c) the European Union or any institution or body of the European Union, or
- (d) any other regional arrangement or body that operates in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law; 10

‘relevant international force’ means an international force or body established, mandated, authorised, endorsed, supported, approved or otherwise sanctioned by an international organisation;”

and 15

(b) in section 2(2), by the substitution of “the enhancement of capabilities for a relevant international force that operates for the purpose of peace-keeping, peace-enforcement or conflict prevention in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations” for “the enhancement of capabilities for United Nations mandated missions engaged in peace keeping, conflict prevention or the strengthening of international security in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations”. 20

An Bille Cosanta (Leasú), 2026

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le comhaltaí d'Óglaigh na nÉireann a chur chun bealaigh agus a imscaradh le haghaidh seirbhís lasmuigh den Stát; do dhéanamh socrú, in imthosca áirithe, maidir le comhaltaí d'Óglaigh na hÉireann a fhionraí; do dhéanamh socrú, in imthosca áirithe, maidir le hoifigigh d'Óglaigh na hÉireann a dhífhostú; chun na gcríoch sin agus chun críoch eile, do leasú an Achta Cosanta, 1954 agus achtacháin áirithe eile; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

An tAire Cosanta a thiolaic,

16 Meitheamh, 2026

Defence (Amendment) Bill 2026

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to provide for the despatch and deployment for service outside the State of members of the Defence Forces; to provide, in certain circumstances, for the suspension of members of the Defence Forces; to provide, in certain circumstances, for the dismissal of officers of the Defence Forces; for these and other purposes to amend the Defence Act 1954 and certain other enactments; and to provide for related matters.

Presented by the Minister for Defence,

16th June, 2026

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

FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
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