

SUBMISSION FROM DENIS NAUGHTON TD

Empowerment of members of Dáil Éireann

1. Reduce threshold for formation of a group from 7 to any group of 5 members who wish to work together, and who express this in writing to the Ceann Comhairle.
2. Allow the Dáil to set the agenda – remove Taoiseach’s prerogative on order of business. Replace current whips with Business committees representative of all members with chair to rotate on six monthly basis, between all groups.
3. Ban motions on the order of business prefaced with “*notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders*” ensuring business is conducted within Standing orders.
4. Allow free votes at Oireachtas Committees including on legislation.
5. Rotate the Leas Cheann Comhairligh on an annual basis – to ensure all members are represented.
6. Increase the number of opportunities for Private members time on weekly basis and this time should not be confined to recognised groups or parties. (*may be the case that it would require 3 signatures as is the case in the Seanad for a private members Bill*)
7. Replace Topical Issues with 6 commencement motions at the start of the day’s business (*similar to Seanad Éireann*)
8. Provide full legislative drafting service to all TDs.
9. Allow a member to introduce amendments creating a charge upon the State, by moving the requirement of the sanctioning money message by the Government under Article 17. 2 of the Constitution, from before committee stage to before 5th stage. This allows these amendments to be debated in Dáil, instead of being rules out of order.
10. In addition the catch all interpretation where any amendment which has the potential to create a charge is disallowed should be relaxed and should only come into play if the actual charge is met under the Bill