

The Legislative Process



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Each piece of legislation proceeds through the following steps:

Pre-Legislative

1

General Scheme published

A draft Bill, called a **General Scheme** will be written by the Department and, if Government approves, it will be published.



2

General Scheme sent to Joint Committee

The General Scheme will be sent to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



3

Committee conducts Pre-Legislative Scrutiny

The Committee can conduct Pre-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS). It will decide whether to hold hearings and/or invite submissions from the public.

4

Committee reports

The Committee may prepare a report, possibly with recommendations, and send it to the Minister.



5

Minister considers report

The Minister will consider any recommendations the Committee has made, and will arrange for the Bill to be drafted.

6

Bill published and introduced

Once drafted, the Bill will be published by the Bills Office in the Houses of the Oireachtas. The Minister will then introduce it in Dáil or Seanad Éireann. There are 5 stages a Bill must pass through in the Oireachtas.

Oireachtas/Legislative

1st Stage

Initiation

A Government Bill will be initiated in either the Dáil or Seanad. There is no debate at this stage. The Bill is simply put on the Order Paper for the House. It must pass all 5 stages in **each** House.

2nd Stage

Second Stage

The House will debate the **general principles** of the Bill and then vote on whether the Bill should move to the next stage.

3rd Stage

Committee Stage

A Committee of the House examines the Bill in detail and may make **amendments**.

4th Stage

Report Stage

The Bill is reviewed by the whole House. Limited amendments can be made at this stage.

5th Stage

Final Stage

A debate is held on the motion **"That the Bill do now pass"**.

Bill sent to **other House** for consideration



Once passed by **both Houses**, the Bill is sent to the President to be **signed**. It is then an **Act**.