



New Laws passed by the Fianna Fáil - Progressive Democrats Partnership Government
July 2002 to Date

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
<p>Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Act 2005</p> <p>No 1 of 2005</p>	<p>The purpose of this Act is to make further provision in relation to the recovery and disposal of proceeds of crime. This involves amending four different acts as follows:</p> <p>Proceeds of Crime Act 1996, Criminal Assets Bureau Act 1996, Criminal Justice Act 1994 Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act 2001.</p> <p>The Act will substantially bolster the powers of the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) in the continuing battle to target the proceeds of all types of crime and will extend those powers to the proceeds of white-collar crime and corruption.</p> <p>The substantial provisions of the Act extend the proceeds of crime legislation to cover foreign criminality and corrupt enrichment. In addition, there are a number of technical provisions relating to court procedures, search powers and evidence.</p>	<p>Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform</p>	<p>12/2/2005</p>



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<p>Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005</p> <p>No 2 of 2005</p>	<p>The Act gives effect to a number of international instruments directed at terrorism and enables the State to meet commitments undertaken as part of the European Union and the broader international community, including commitments arising from United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 adopted in response to the events of September 11th, 2001. The Act is also intended to amend our law more generally to enhance the capacity of the State to address the problem of international terrorism.</p> <p>The principal purpose of the Act is to enable effect to be given in our law to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">" European Union Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism;" International Convention against the Taking of Hostages;" Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents;" International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings; and <p>the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">" International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. <p>The Act makes provision for a number of additional measures directed in particular to combat the financing of terrorism and terrorist groups for the purpose of complementing the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.</p> <p>This Act also provides for the retention of communications data (Part 7) and amends the European Arrest Warrant Act 2003 (Part 8).</p>	<p>Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform</p>	<p>8/3/2005</p>



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Health (Amendment) Act 2005 No 3 of 2005	<p>The Act provides a legal framework for the charging of patients for the maintenance element of in-patient services in publicly-funded long term care residential units. Regulations are now being prepared to implement the charges. The Act and regulations will promote consistency in the application of charges, with greater clarity for those receiving services as well as promoting administrative efficiency and transparency throughout the system.</p> <p>The legislation also ensures that the income flow from charges will continue to support the provision of quality services to those in long term care. It has been accepted by successive governments that these charges, as contributions to the cost of shelter and maintenance are fair and reasonable.</p> <p>The Act also contains provisions enabling the introduction of doctor-visit medical cards. The introduction of doctor visit cards is intended to help overcome barriers to accessing GP services for many individuals on low incomes but who are above the income guidelines for a standard medical card.</p>	Department of Health and Children	11/3/2005
Social Welfare and Pensions Act 2005 No 4 of 2005	<p>The Social Welfare and Pensions Act includes provision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· increases in Child Benefit,· improvements in Carer's Benefit and Carer's Respite Care Grant,· improvements in Disability Benefit and Disability Allowance,· improvements in Injury Benefit,· increases in the capital value which will be disregarded for most means test purposes. <p>The Act also provides for a number of amendments to the Pensions Act 1990. These amendments are required to implement EU Directive 2003/41/EC on the activities and supervision of the Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision (IORPs) and to implement recommendations from the Pensions Board to the Minister on foot of a review of the Funding Standard.</p> <p>In addition, the Act provides for a number of miscellaneous amendments to the Social Welfare Code and the Pensions Act.</p>	Department of Social & Family Affairs	14/3/2005



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Finance Act 2005 No 5 of 2005	The main purpose of the Act is to give legislative form to the taxation proposals in the Budget Statement of 1 December 2004. It also contains provisions which are consequential on the Budget measures and other changes in the taxation code. The Act is in 6 parts covering Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Excise, Value-Added Tax, Stamp Duties, Capital Acquisitions Tax and Miscellaneous. This year the Act runs to 150 sections and 6 schedules. In conjunction with the Act, an Explanatory Memorandum is published which provides an explanation of each section.	Department of Finance	25/3/2005
British – Irish Agreement (Amendment) Act 2005 No 6 of 2005	<p>The Act remedies a possible technical defect in section 53(b) of the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999. It removes any doubt that a North/South Implementation Body is not bound by the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No. 2) Act 1978 and incorporates the exemption in respect of that protection for dwelling houses contained in the Landlord and Tenant Act 1980 in the same terms as set out in that Act.</p> <p>The Act does not apply to any notice of intention or any application made in relation to the acquisition of the fee simple before its passing or any arbitration or appeal to the Circuit Court in respect of such a notice or application.</p>	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	6/5/2005
Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Act 2005 No 7 of 2005	<p>In this Act section 4 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No.2) Act 1978 is amended to include IDA Ireland, Shannon Free Airport Development Company, and Udarás na Gaeltachta. The effect of this is to add these agencies to the State authorities that are not bound by the Landlord and Tenant legislation. This provision already applies to Government Ministers and the Commissioners of Public Works. Reference to the Irish Land Commission was deleted as that body no longer exists.</p> <p>The purpose of this amending provision is to remove the entitlements under the Landlord and Tenant Acts of companies to acquire the freehold interest in the property they hold on lease, or sub-lease, from the agencies.</p>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	19/5/2005



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Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act 2005 No 8 of 2005	<p>The purpose of the Act is to amend existing dormant accounts legislation, principally in relation to decisions on disbursements from the Dormant Accounts Fund. The Act provides that, in future, decisions on disbursements from the Fund will be made by Government. The Act also provides for the establishment of a reconstituted Board whose key responsibilities will be to prepare a Disbursement Plan and to review and report on the effectiveness, additionality and impact of spending from the Fund.</p> <p>The objectives underpinning disbursements from the Fund will remain unchanged, i.e., to assist persons who are socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged or who have a disability.</p>	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	25/5/2005



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<p>Sea Pollution (Hazardous Substances) (Compensation) Act 2005</p> <p>No 9 of 2005</p>	<p>This new law which is technical in nature, gives effect to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in connection with the carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (HNS Convention) and to the 1996 Protocol to the International Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976 (LLMC 1976).</p> <p>The HNS Convention complements arrangements, already in place, regarding civil liability and compensation in relation to oil pollution. The Oil Pollution of the Sea (Civil Liability and Compensation) Acts 1988 to 2003 give effect to those arrangements in Irish law. The HNS Convention is to apply to incidents involving a range of substances classified in various international codes as being hazardous or noxious. An international compensation fund is to be set up financed by annual contributions from individuals, or companies, trading in substantial amounts of the materials covered by the Convention. This is intended to pay any compensation necessary over and above that for which the ship owner is liable, up to an overall limit of €300 million approx. It is expected that very few, if any, Irish companies will be required to contribute.</p> <p>LLMC 1976 establishes the basis on which claims may be made arising on foot of the various risks incidental to maritime transport, and how they may be prosecuted and sets maximum aggregate limits depending on the tonnage of the vessel in question for claims arising from any one incident. The Diplomatic Conference which adopted the HNS Convention considered, however, that these limits would not be sufficient to provide adequate compensation for claims likely to arise under the HNS Convention and contemporaneously agreed a Protocol in order to increase the limits. The Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and Others) Act 1996 gives effect to LLMC 1976. The Act amends the 1996 Act to give effect to the Protocol.</p>	<p>Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources</p>	<p>30/05/2005</p>



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Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005 No 10 of 2005	The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (No. 10 of 2005), repeals and replaces the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989, updates the law in respect of occupational health and safety, provides for the continuation of the Health and Safety Authority, and ensures Ireland's compliance with EU occupational health and safety law. The Act, emphasises prevention, provides for broad general duties on employers, employees and others, and sets out organisational and structural arrangements. New elements of the law include provisions for increased penalties for breaches of the law, on the spot fines, testing of employees for intoxicants, and joint health and safety agreements.	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	22/06/2005
Maritime Safety Act 2005 No 11 of 2005	<p>The purposes of this new law is to strengthen the law against improper use of certain recreational craft; to outlaw reckless behaviour in operating or on board vessels generally and to promote good practice in operating vessels generally; to update safety regulation-making provisions for passenger boats, fishing vessels and pleasure craft, as well as updating penalty and other provisions of the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 2000. This new law updates penalty and other provisions of certain other Acts (including section 4(1) of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents)(No. 2) Act 1978) and amends section 222B (sea-fishing boat licences) of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959. In addition it defines the outer limits of foreshore for the purposes of the Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2003. etc.</p> <p>This strengthening of the law against the improper operation of fast powered watercraft of the types in question in Irish waters and the outlawing of reckless behaviour on or with vessels generally will significantly enhance public safety and amenity and protect priceless natural and other heritage areas. Tourism and leisure businesses will also benefit from this new law which should prevent lives being endangered and "nuisance" on or by vessels.</p> <p>This law also clearly defines the outer limit of foreshore so as to protect projects permitted over the years (piers, harbours, marinas, pipelines, electricity generation, aquaculture, etc.) and to facilitate the permitting of further such projects in the national interest. It also allows ongoing sea-fishing businesses to continue their operations by providing for renewal of licences and more focused survey requirements as regards safety-seaworthiness. These provisions will protect employment in coastal economies in particular.</p>	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources	29/06/2005



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Investment Funds, Companies and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2005 No 12 of 2005	<p>The Investment Funds, Companies and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2005 makes a number of changes to the existing law on investment funds. Aimed at investors, it provides for the introduction of a new type of investment fund vehicle. These changes will make Ireland a more attractive location for establishment of investment funds, thereby increasing our competitiveness in the area.</p> <p>The Act also facilitates the bringing into Irish law of EU Directives on Market Abuse and Prospectus. A number of other changes have been made to general company law to remove anomalies, rectify incomplete or incorrect cross references in existing law and facilitate operators using electronic technology. Some amendments have been made to certain pieces of consumer protection legislation mostly to increase the level of maximum fines that can be imposed on conviction.</p>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	29/06/2005
The Air Navigation and Transport (Indemnities) Act 2005 No 13 of 2005	<p>"The Air Navigation and Transport (Indemnities) Act 2005 (No. 13 of 2005) was signed into law by the President on 4 July 2005. This Act gives the Minister for Transport the power to issue indemnities for Irish aviation undertakings, to enable those undertakings to continue trading in the face of the withdrawal by the insurance industry of certain war and terrorism insurance. Some war and terrorism insurance cover has recently been withdrawn by the insurance industry, affecting airlines' policies as they renew. It is anticipated that other war and terrorism cover may be withdrawn in 2006. While, at the time of the signing of this Act, it is not deemed necessary to issue indemnities under the Act, the Minister for Transport is keeping this situation under review.</p> <p>This Act does not commit the Minister for Transport to issue indemnities, but simply provides the legal basis to do so if the Minister considers it necessary. Indemnities can only be issued if the Government has made an order authorising the Minister for Transport to issue them, and if the Minister for Finance agrees to the issuing of the indemnities. "</p>	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources	4/7/2005



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Disability Act 2005 No 14 of 2005	<p>The Disability Act 2005 is a positive action measure designed to advance and underpin the participation of people with disabilities in everyday life. It establishes a statutory basis for -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- an independent assessment of individual health (including personal social services) needs and, where appropriate, educational services for persons with disabilities over age 18 years, a related service statement and access to complaints, appeals and enforcement mechanisms, where entitlements are not delivered.- access to mainstream public services and actions to support access to public buildings, services and information.- sectoral plans to be prepared and published in six key sectors - by the Ministers for Health and Children, Social and Family Affairs, the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The plans will set out the disability related services and positive actions measures to be implemented and will be the subject of a consultation process before being finalised and submitted to the Oireachtas for approval.- safeguards for the use of information obtained from genetic testing to ensure that persons affected by genetic disorders are not subjected to unreasonable requirements from an employer, insurer or mortgage provider.- obligations on public bodies to be proactive in employing people with disabilities and the monitoring of compliance with those obligations.- the establishment of a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design in the National Disability Authority to promote best practice in the design of the environment and products so that they are accessible and usable for everyone, especially people with disabilities.- other provisions including amendment of the Broadcasting Act 2001 in relation to rules to facilitate access to broadcast programmes by persons with sensory impairments and a reduction in the membership of the National Disability Authority.	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	8/7/2005
International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Cape Town Convention) Act 2005 No 15 of 2005	<p>The Act makes the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol part of Irish law. The Convention provides a uniform international legal framework to facilitate asset-based financing of aircraft. By providing greater security for lenders it will be easier, and probably cheaper, for airlines to obtain finance for new aircraft with improved safety and environmental performance.</p>	Department of Transport	9/7/2005



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Electoral (Amendment) Act 2005 No 16 of 2005	The main purpose of this Act is to revise the Dáil constituencies in the light of the 2002 Census of Population and, in this context, to implement the recommendations contained in the Constituency Commission's Report on Dáil Constituencies 2004. The Commission was established under Part II of the Electoral Act 1997 (No. 25 of 1997) to report on the constituencies for the election of members to Dáil Éireann and the European Parliament; its 2003 report related to European Parliament constituencies. The Act also addresses an issue that had arisen in relation to the definition of election expenses for the purposes of the Electoral Act 1997.	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government	9/7/2005
Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Amendment) Act 2005 No 17 of 2005	This Act amends the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse Act 2000 to give effect to the recommendations of Mr. Justice Sean Ryan contained in his report on the workings of the Commission. It provides for a number of largely technical amendments to the Residential Institutions Redress Act 2002, and provides a statutory framework for the operation of an Education Fund for former residents of certain institutions and their families.	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	9/7/2005



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<p>Civil Service Regulation (Amendment) Act 2005</p> <p>No 18 of 2005</p>	<p>The main purpose of this Bill is to amend the Civil Service Regulation Act 1956 in order to allow certain provisions contained in the Public Service Management Act 1997 to take effect.</p> <p>The Public Service Management Act 1997 introduced the broad framework for modern management practices in the Civil Service. That Act established a framework within which, subject to the Civil Service Regulation Act 1956, managerial responsibility, including powers of dismissal, for staff below the level of Principal Officer would be given to Secretaries General. The Public Service Management Act also envisaged that Secretaries General could delegate most personnel functions, other than dismissal, to senior civil servants. However, the practical implementation of these powers and functions is constrained by the Civil Service Regulation Act 1956, which reserves most disciplinary functions to Ministers. The Bill will remove those constraints.</p> <p>Generally, each Secretary General or Head of a Scheduled Office will be responsible, by virtue of being the "appropriate authority," for managing all matters pertaining to appointments, performance, discipline and dismissal of civil servants below Principal Officer level. Each Minister will be the appropriate authority for civil servants at and above Principal level. The Bill, as published, amends various Acts to introduce the following Human Resources Management (HRM) changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· civil servants (as office holders), other than those dismissed by Government, will be brought within the scope of the Unfair Dismissals Acts;· civil servants (as office holders), will be brought within the scope of the Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Acts;· disciplinary action may be taken in cases of underperformance;· any suspension pending the conclusion of a disciplinary investigation will be suspension on full pay;· the range of possible disciplinary sanctions will be broadened to include suspension without pay;· people aged over 65 years may be engaged as civil servants.	Department of Finance	9/7/2005



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Civil Registration (Amendment) Act 2004 No 19 of 2005	This Act provided for an amendment to the Civil Registration Act 2004, to permit the continued payment of specified fees and allowances to registrars of births, deaths and marriages who are not employed by the Health Service Executive and to persons employed by the Health Service Executive who are not assigned as registrars on a full-time basis to the office of a Superintendent Registrar. Upon commencement of the Civil Registration Act 2004 (other than parts 1 and 2), the existing provisions for payment of fees and allowances to these registrars will be repealed.	Department of Health and Children	9/7/2005
Garda Síochána Act No 20 of 2005	The purpose of this Act is to: (i) reform the legislative structure for the management of the Garda Síochána, in particular by clarifying the role and objectives of the Force and defining its relationship with the Minister and the Government of the day; (ii) provide for the establishment of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, the primary function of which will be to investigate complaints by members of the public against members of the Garda Síochána; (iii) provide for the establishment of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate to advise the Minister in relation to the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations and administration of the Garda Síochána; (iv) provide for new procedures relating to: - the accountability of members of the Garda Síochána for the discharge of their official duties - the duty of the Garda Commissioner to account and provide information to the Government, and - the summary dismissal of certain ranks by the Garda Commissioner. The Act also provides for new measures in relation to the establishment of Joint Policing Committees, a statutory basis for Garda and Community based CCTV Systems, provisions for the exercise of special powers by private security officers at State buildings and offices and the making of regulations relating to the reporting of corruption and malpractice in the Garda Síochána.	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	10/7/2005



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Grangegorman Development Agency Act No 21 of 2005	The purpose of the Act is to establish an Agency whose function, in the first instance, is to prepare a strategic planning scheme for the Grangegorman Site. The plan must provide for the needs of Dublin Institute of Technology, the Health Services Executive, the Ministers for Education and Science and Health and Children, the local community and the city. The Act incorporates provision for extensive consultation with all interested parties. These include the academic and student bodies of Dublin Institute of Technology, the Eastern Regional Health Authority, the Northern Area Health Board, the Ministers for Education and Science and Health and Children, local residents and health care staff and patients located in or near the site. The Department of Transport will also have a major input because of the public transport requirements of the developed site.	Department of Education and Science	11/7/2005
Veterinary Practice Act No 22 of 2005	The primary purpose of the Act is to bring regulation of the veterinary profession fully up to date taking account of the many developments in the environment within which the profession operates since the original legislation was enacted in 1931. The Act provides, in particular, for the first time, the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine and the statutory recognition of veterinary nurses. The Act also provides for continued professional development, wider registration possibilities, recognition of specialisation, practice accreditation and more transparent fitness to practise procedures and proportionate sanctions. A broader membership of the Veterinary Council to reflect interests such as education, consumers and food safety is also provided for in the Act.	Department of Agriculture and Food	12/7/2005
The Interpretation Act No 23 of 2005	Interpretation Acts are found in almost all legislative jurisdictions and are used as a means of providing general rules for the interpretation of laws. This Act, which is primarily of interest to the legal community, simplifies the reading of laws. It also modernises the language of rules and definitions found in previous Acts.	Department of the Taoiseach	17/11/2005
An tAcht Talún 2005 - Acht do leasú agus do leathnú na nAchtanna Talamh Cheannaigh No 24 of 2005	The matters dealt with in the Land Act 2005 primarily concern land purchase annuities/land reclamation annuities. The Act provides for both a write off of small annuities (less than €200 per annum) and a buy out scheme for amounts greater than €200 per annum aimed at encouraging annuitants to clear their existing debts at a discount of 25 per cent subject to all outstanding arrears being paid in full. The Act also provides the Minister for Agriculture and Food with enhanced powers to seek recovery of any outstanding annuity arrears.	Department of Agriculture and Food	26/10/2005



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<p>An Achta um Shaoire Uchtaíocht 2005.</p> <p>No 25 of 2005</p>	<p>The Adoptive Leave Act 2005 amends the Adoptive Leave Act 1995 to apply the appropriate recommendations of the Social Partnership Working Group on the Review and Improvement of the Maternity Protection Legislation to adoptive leave. The Act provides for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase in the adoptive leave period by 2 weeks to 16 weeks (already implemented by Statutory Instrument No 667 of 2004 with effect from 19 November, 2004);- adopting parent(s) to attend required preparation classes and pre-adoption meetings with social workers/health board officials during work hours without loss of pay;- termination of additional adoptive leave in the event of illness, subject to the agreement of the employer;- splitting the period of adoptive leave/additional adoptive leave in the event of the hospitalisation of the child, subject to the agreement of the employer- and absence from work on additional adoptive leave will count for all employment rights (except remuneration, superannuation benefits) such as seniority and annual leave.	<p>Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform</p>	<p>1/11/2005</p>
<p>An tAcht Comhdhlúite Leasa Shóisialaigh 2005</p> <p>No 26 of 2005</p>	<p>The purpose of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act is to provide, in a single accessible document, the principles governing the application of the Social Welfare Code, in relation to the Social Insurance Fund, social insurance-based benefits, social assistance schemes and child benefit. It also contains the provisions underpinning the control and application of these schemes, and a number of other matters that come under the aegis of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs.</p> <p>Prior to this Act, Social Welfare primary legislation was contained in the Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 1993, and 26 other enactments.</p>	<p>Department of Social and Family Affairs</p>	<p>27/11/2005</p>



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Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 No 27 of 2005	The Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005, which was signed by the President on November 30th, provides for the establishment of a system of statutory registration for certain health and social care professionals. The establishment of this system of statutory registration is essential to the delivery of the quality and accountability objectives of the Health Strategy. It will ensure that members of the public are guided, protected and informed, so that they can be confident that health and social care professionals providing services are properly qualified, competent and fit to practice. The regulatory system builds on the experience of the Medical Council and An Bord Altranais and will ensure professional conduct and the maintenance of high standards of professional education and training among health and social care professionals.	Department of Health and Children	30/11/2005
Acht Um Fhorghníomhú Pianbheitheanna A Aistriú 2005 No 28 of 2005	<p>Arising from International Agreements and Conventions (see below) this Act provides an alternative to extradition in so far as it allows the sentenced person to serve the sentence in his / her 'home' state.</p> <p>Under this Act the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform may request a foreign state to carry out a sentence imposed in Ireland on a national of that foreign state where the national has fled from Ireland without serving the sentence. In the case of persons who have returned to Ireland without serving a sentence imposed abroad, the High Court, based on an application by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, will determine whether a warrant should issue for the person's arrest. Following arrest, the High Court will determine whether the sentence is to be served and what adjustments, if any, are to be made to the sentence. The safeguard provisions available under the Extradition Act and Part 3 of the European Arrest Warrant Act 2003 are available to persons who are arrested under this Act.</p> <p><i>This Act gives effect in Irish law to the 1997 Additional Protocol (in particular, Article 2) to the 1983 Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and to the corresponding provisions in Chapter 5 of Title III to the Schengen Convention.</i></p> <p><i>The arrangements under this Act will apply between Ireland and States that are Parties to the Additional Protocol and/ or to the Schengen Convention, where those states have also been designated for the purpose of this Act by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.</i></p>	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	13/12/2005



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<p>An tAcht Leithreasa, 2005</p> <p>No 29 of 2005</p>	<p>The main purpose of the Appropriation Act, 2005 is to give statutory authority for the amounts voted by the Dáil during the year in the estimates (original and supplementary) of expenditure for Government Departments and their agencies and also approval for the expenditure of receipts on services provided by them.</p> <p>It also provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· the carryover from 2005 to 2006 of unspent Exchequer capital amounts by certain Departments up to a limit of 10% of their Vote· deferment of the end-year deadline for the Financial Resolutions passed on Budget Day, and· certain excise duties levied on tobacco products to be appropriated to the Health Service Executive Vote from 1 January 2006 rather than to the Vote of the Minister for Health and Children as was the case under the Appropriation Act, 1999.	<p>Department of Finance</p>	<p>16/12/2005</p>



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An tAcht Leasa Shoisialaigh 2005 No 30 of 2005	<p>The main purpose of the Social Welfare Act 2005 is to provide for the Budgetary increases in the rates of social insurance and social assistance payments and improvements in the Family Income Supplement, Maternity and Adoptive Benefit and Supplementary Welfare Allowance schemes.</p> <p>It also provides for an increase in the weekly earnings limit below which PRSI is not payable, an increase in the income ceiling above which PRSI contributions are not payable by employed or optional contributors, in addition to changes to the Health Contributions Act 1979 to provide for an increase in the weekly and annual exemption thresholds for the Health Contribution Levy.</p>	Department of Social and Family Affairs	16/12/2005
An tAcht Um Shábháilteacht Iarnróid 2005 No 31 of 2005	<p>The Railway Safety Act 2005 applies to Iarnród Éireann, Luas, heritage railways and any similar railways to be built in the future, including metros.</p> <p>Under the Act, the Railway Safety Commission, established on 1 January, 2006, has responsibility for the regulation of railway safety in Ireland. A railway accident investigation unit has also been established and has the power to investigate any railway accident. The Act provides for a range of indictable offences for endangering railway safety. The Act is innovative in that it provides a framework for the testing of safety critical railway workers for use of intoxicants.</p>	Department of Transport	18/12/2005
Statute Law Revision (pre-1922) Act 2005 No 32 of 2005	<p>The Statute Law Revision (pre-1922) Act, repeals 206 pre-1922 Statutes that were enacted before 6 December 1922 that are no longer in force, and are considered to be spent, obsolete, or no longer to be of practical utility. This Act is the first in a series of legislative measures proposed by the Government to remove from the Irish Statute Book, all obsolete or redundant legislation that pre-dates the foundation of the State. The purpose is to help streamline and modernise the Statute Book and it forms part of the Government's overall commitment to Better Regulation and regulatory reform. Repealing outdated legislation ensures that the Statute Book is kept up to date, providing for increased clarity and accessibility of primary legislation. This approach is in keeping with good practice in the management of the regulatory framework.</p>	Department of the Taoiseach	18/12/2005
Coroners (Amendment) Act 2005 No 33 of 2005	<p>This Act removes the restriction on the number of medical witnesses who may be summoned to give evidence at an inquest. It also increases the penalties for witnesses or jurors who refuse to attend or cooperate at the inquest.</p>	Department of Finance	21/12/2005



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July 2002 to Date

Name of New law and its Number	What does this Law do?	Contact Department	Signed by the President on
An tAcht um Bainc Forbartha 2005 No 34 of 2005	<p>The Act will facilitate meeting Ireland's international obligations in a timely fashion and will support the delivery of the Government's Overseas Development Assistance Strategy, including the policy of attaining the UN target for assistance of 0.7% of GNP by 2012.</p> <p>The Act provides for Ireland's membership of the Asian Development Bank; a multilateral development finance institution, dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific. Membership of the Asian Development Bank is identified as an objective in the Asia Strategy and Ireland has long wished to participate in the work of the Bank in that region.</p> <p>The Act also amends the existing legislation to give effect to the decision the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development add Mongolia to the area of operations of that Bank in 2004.</p>	Department of Finance	21/12/2005