



**AN BILLE UM AN OCHTÚ LEASÚ IS FICHE AR AN
mBUNREACTH (UIMH. 3) 2006**
**TWENTY-EIGHTH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION
(NO. 3) BILL 2006**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of the Bill

This Bill seeks to democratise the Office of the President and create a more active Presidency by lifting current restrictions on nomination procedures, increasing the interactivity between the Houses of the Oireachtas and the President, shortening the term of office and extending voting rights.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 amends Article 12 of the Constitution to allow for the following: the opportunity for those not resident in the State of Ireland but citizens of the State of Ireland to vote in Presidential Elections, shortening the term of office to five years, changing the nomination procedures to allow a nomination for a Presidential candidate to be made by a minimum of five members of the Houses of the Oireachtas, four County Councils or a Citizens' Initiative of not less than twenty thousand people.

Section 2 amends Article 13 of the Constitution to stipulate that the President shall address the Houses of the Oireachtas once a year.

Section 3 amends Article 31 of the Constitution to encourage the Council of State to meet more frequently stipulating that it should meet at least three times a year.

Dónal Ó Baoil,
Aibreán, 2006.