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**AN BILLE UM AN AONÚ LEASÚ IS FICHE AR AN  
mBUNREACTH (UIMH. 4), 1999  
TWENTY-FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION  
(NO. 4) BILL, 1999**

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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*Purpose of Bill*

The purpose of the Bill is to amend Article 40 of the Constitution (“Personal Rights”) by making extended provision relating to the right to equality before the law.

The new section prohibits unfair discrimination and sets out an indicative list of unfair grounds. An exemption is provided in favour of affirmative action, or positive discrimination. It is also provided that, in particular, the State may impose obligations to take reasonable steps to accommodate the needs of persons with a physical or mental disability.

*Provisions of Bill*

*Section 1* amends Article 40 of the Constitution by substituting a new section for section 1, the text of which is set out in the Schedule to the Bill.

*Section 2* is a standard provision relating to the citation of the Bill and amendment.

*An Teachta Ruairí Ó Cuinn,  
Samhain, 1999.*