Ríaltas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act 2019

Background

In September 2015, the Government gave its approval to the drafting of the Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Bill. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny was undertaken in December 2015 and the report was laid before the Oireachtas in February 2016.

The Bill was published in July 2019 and signed in to law on 23 December 2019.

Purpose of the Act

The Act will establish a Regulator to oversee the effective governance, financial management and performance of voluntary and co-operative housing bodies.

The Act aims to safeguard public and private investment in the social housing provision sector to ensure that the assets built through investments in the sector are managed sustainably. The statutory regulatory framework will provide further assurances to investors, tenants, the Government and to the sector itself that social housing providers operate in a well-regulated and stable environment.

Functions of the Regulator

The functions of the Regulator will be to:

- establish and maintain a register of AHBs;

- register persons as AHBs;
- prepare draft standards for approval by the Minister, publish the approved standards, and monitor and assess compliance by AHBs with the approved standards and with the legislation more generally;

- carry out investigations in accordance with the Act;

- protect tenants and AHBs and cancel the registration of AHBs;

- encourage and facilitate the better governance, administration and management, including corporate governance and financial management, of AHBs by the provision of information and advice;

- with a view to promoting awareness and understanding, make available to the public information about the operation of the legislative arrangements being introduced under the Act;

- collect information concerning AHBs for the purposes of the performance of the functions conferred on it by or under this Act;

- publish such information (including statistical information) concerning AHBs, as appropriate.

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