



Justice and Equality Committee makes important changes to Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016

The Select Committee on Justice and Equality is a group of government and opposition TD's.



The Select Committee on Justice and Equality discussed the Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 on Wednesday 30th January 2019. The Committee agreed to make changes to the Bill.



Minister for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath made a speech.

He reminded everyone that the aim of the Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 is to make changes to laws so that Ireland keeps to what the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) says.

Inclusion Ireland had called for a number of changes to be made.

The Committee members talked about some of these changes during the debate.



INCLUSION IRELAND

National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability

Changes made to the Bill

The Committee agreed to make some changes to the Bill. These are:

- Changing the law about being on a jury so the law is more in line with what the Assisted Decision-Making Act says
- Making sure people who use wheelchairs can get into polling stations when they go to vote





- Asking the Referendum Commission to provide accessible information

Deprivation of liberty

It was planned that this law would include protections to make sure that people with disabilities are not deprived of their liberty.



Deprivation of liberty is about taking away someone's freedom.

The safeguards will try to stop this from happening.

But there is nothing in this Bill about deprivation of liberty safeguards.



Finian McGrath said that a working group is thinking about what should be done on deprivation of liberty safeguards.

This means we do not know when the deprivation of liberty safeguards will be put into law.

What happens next?

The Bill has to go through more stages before it is made into law.

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin is the Chair of the Committee.

He asked Minister Finian McGrath to bring the Bill to the next stage as soon as possible.

