

Political Action Report

By John Costello

The last two months we covered the structure and selection for seats in the lower house of the Irish legislature, the Dáil.

The upper house is known as the Seanad. It consists of 60 senators and is comparable to the “United” Kingdom’s House of Lords. The current Seanad, the 27th, was convened in 2025 and is scheduled serve until 2030 (unless a general election for the Dáil is called earlier). It consists of 43 senators elected via vocational panels: agriculture, labor, industry, administration, and culture/education; 6 from university panels: elected by graduates of the National University of Ireland (NUI), the public university system, and Trinity University; and 11 nominated by the Taoiseach.

The Seanad can amend or delay legislation, but neither veto nor initiate spending bills.