



Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas

Education Programme

HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

SEANAD ÉIREANN

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

This is the main chamber of Seanad Éireann or the Senate. Seanad Éireann works in a similar way to Dáil Éireann but with some differences. Each sitting of the Seanad is governed by an Order Paper, which is prepared under the direction of its Cathaoirleach or Chairperson.

The Order Paper lists the business which will be carried out by the House.

The Dáil and the Seanad have matching powers in certain areas. For example, the removal from office of the President, a judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court and the Controller (Comptroller) and Auditor General. They can also declare and terminate a state of emergency.

Both Houses can also make laws and annulments of Statutory Instruments. These are the legal powers that are given to Ministers. However, Seanad Éireann does have prior or exclusive powers in two areas. It can shorten the length of time that the President has to sign a Bill into law. This is called “earlier signature motion”. It can also petition the President to refuse to sign a Bill until the people have decided the matter by referendum. However, this kind of petition requires the support of a majority of the Seanad and not less than one third of the Dáil.