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**DUBLIN BAY BILL 2021**

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CONTENTS

Section

1. Short title and commencement
2. Interpretation
3. Establishment of Dublin Bay Task Force
4. Membership of Task Force
5. Functions of Task Force
6. Strategic plan for Dublin Bay

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ACTS REFERRED TO

Local Government Act 1991 (No. 11)

Planning and Development Act 2000 (No. 30)

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**DUBLIN BAY BILL 2021**

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# Bill

*entitled*

An Act to establish a special committee of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly to serve as a Dublin Bay Task Force; to provide as a objective for the Task Force the preservation for current and future generations of the distinctive character of Dublin Bay and its ecology as a coastal resource; to confer on the Task Force the function of proposing and promoting policies and priorities for the protection and enhancement of the environment, and in particular the water quality, of Dublin Bay and of its natural habitats and wildlife; and to provide for connected matters.

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:**

**Short title and commencement.**

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Dublin Bay Act 2021.
- (2) This Act comes into operation 3 months after its passing.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Act –

“the Act of 1991” means the Local Government Act 1991;

“the Act of 2000” means the Planning and Development Act 2000;

“the Assembly” means the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly;

“Dublin Bay” means so much of the sea as lies westward of an imaginary line drawn from the Baily Lighthouse on the north in the County of Dublin and extending through the North Burford Bank Buoy and thence through the South Burford Bank Buoy and thence to Sorrento Point on the south, including the Port of Dublin, the harbours of Bulloch, Sandycove, Dún Laoghaire, Coliemore and Sutton and all other harbours, bays, creeks and tidal docks and all waters within that area;

**Establishment of Dublin Bay Task Force**

3. (1) On the coming into operation of this Act, the Assembly shall establish a special committee, to be known as the Dublin Bay Task Force and in this Act referred to as the Task Force.
- (2) To the extent that any function conferred by this Act on the Task Force is a function performable by the Assembly, the function is deemed to have been delegated to the Task Force by the Assembly under section 43 of the Act of 1991.

- (3) Save to the extent that they are inconsistent with this Act, section 43 of the Act of 1991 and the Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Assemblies) (Establishment) Orders 2014 and 2015 apply to the Task Force.

#### **Membership of Task Force**

4. The Task Force shall consist of –
- (a) members of each of the councils of the counties of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin, and the city of Dublin, and
  - (b) persons who are not members of the Assembly and are appointed from among persons having an interest or expertise in the protection and sustainable development of Dublin Bay or the maritime environment generally.

#### **Functions of Task Force**

5. The functions of the Task Force shall be –
- (a) to propose and promote policies and priorities for the protection and enhancement of the environment of Dublin Bay and of the natural habitats and wildlife in and around the Bay,
  - (b) to co-ordinate, promote and support strategic planning and sustainable development in and around Dublin Bay,
  - (c) to make recommendations to regulate and control pollution in and around Dublin Bay,
  - (d) to promote public interest in and respect for Dublin Bay as a public amenity,
  - (e) to co-ordinate the activities of public bodies and other organisations and persons in matters connected with the performance of its functions.
- (2) The objective of the Task Force in the performance of its functions shall be to preserve for current and future generations the distinctive character of Dublin Bay and its ecology as a coastal resource, by promoting and applying adequate land use planning.
- (3) In the performance of its functions the Task Force shall be guided by:
- (a) the need to adopt a perspective which takes account of the interdependence and disparity of the natural systems and human activities with an impact on Dublin Bay;
  - (b) the need to adopt a long-term perspective which takes account of the precautionary principle and the needs of present and future generations;
  - (c) the need for adaptive management to facilitate adjustments in policy as scientific knowledge concerning the evolution of Dublin Bay develops;

- (d) the need to consult with and involve interested persons and organisations in the management of Dublin Bay;
- (e) the need to establish or maintain appropriate links with other interested persons and organisations, with the aim of improved coordination in the formulation and execution of policies.

### **Strategic plan for Dublin Bay**

6. (1) Dublin Bay shall be a strategic planning area within the Eastern and Midland Region, and the Task Force shall be the strategic planning area committee in respect of that area.
- (2) The Task Force shall be responsible for making a regional spatial and economic strategy for Dublin Bay for the purposes of Chapter III of Part II of the Act of 2000 and it shall, as soon as may be after the coming into operation of this Act, agree any necessary arrangements and procedures for preparing and making the first such regional spatial and economic strategy.
- (3) Without prejudice to the requirements of Chapter III of Part II of the Act of 2000, a regional spatial and economic strategy for Dublin Bay shall –
- (a) set out a vision for Dublin Bay as a resource to improve the quality of life for the people of Dublin,
  - (b) set out the environmental, economic, social and other issues relevant to the condition of Dublin Bay and proposals to address those issues,
  - (c) set out in particular considerations arising from the need for environmental sustainability, the duty to conserve habitats and wildlife and the impact of climate change arising from global warming,
  - (d) identify those areas in and around Dublin Bay where detailed proposals and plans for the renewal, preservation, conservation, restoration, development or redevelopment of land would be appropriate,
  - (e) set out design guidelines for the area around Dublin Bay, or any part thereof, including guidelines relating to building conservation and landscaping, and
  - (f) include proposals relating to public access and public amenities, including public transport and pedestrian access to Dublin Bay and its environs.