



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



New Government to Decide Ireland Shipping Bill Fate

Ireland's new Government will decide the fate of a Bill introduced to both enhance the country's maritime safety regime and future-proof it for increasing demands arising from a developing offshore renewable energy sector.

The [Merchant Shipping \(Investigation of Marine Accidents\) Bill 2024](#) lapsed with the 8 November dissolution of the Dáil and Seanad, the two houses of the Oireachtas (Parliament of Ireland), ahead of the 29 November election. The Bill had reached the third of five stages towards enactment.

When the Bill was introduced by the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan in July this year, the Department of Transport issued a media release heralding it as helping pave the way for introduction of a new Marine Accident Investigation Unit (MAIU).

"The Bill provides for the establishment of the MAIU within the Department of Transport," it stated.

"It will replace the Marine Casualty Investigation Board as the permanent body responsible for marine accident investigation.

"The focus of the Bill is to provide the MAIU with the framework to carry out marine safety investigations into marine accidents involving vessels in Irish waters and Irish-flagged vessels anywhere in the world.

"The Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Accidents) Bill 2024 also provides for regulation-making power to cater for the newer types of vessels used in the offshore service sector and their transportation of industrial workers who will, for example, deploy infrastructure and service offshore renewable energy facilities."

It is understood that when a Bill lapses due to the dissolution of Ireland's Parliament, it may be reinstated by a newly-formed Government.

The screenshot shows the official website of the Houses of the Oireachtas. The header includes the Oireachtas logo and navigation links for 'Gaeilge', 'Reader view', 'Listen', and 'Contact us'. A secondary navigation bar lists 'Bills & Acts', 'Debates', 'TDs & Senators', 'Committees', 'Visit & Learn', and 'More'. The main content area features the title 'Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Accidents) Bill 2024' and '(Bill 64 of 2024)'. A breadcrumb trail at the bottom left reads 'Home > Bills & Acts > Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Accidents) Bill 2024', and a 'Share this page' link is visible at the bottom right.

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