

**Draft**

**of**

**GENERAL SCHEME**

**FAMILY LAW (DIVORCE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019**

**IMPORTANT: The General Scheme of the Family Law (Divorce) (Amendment) Bill 2019 presents, in the form of Heads, measures that would, in the event that the Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Divorce) Bill 2016 is passed by both Houses and approved in a referendum, be drafted as a formal Bill and introduced by the Government following the referendum. It should be noted that the General Scheme will, if introduced in these circumstances, be subject to change consequent on formal drafting.**

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Head 1: Short title and commencement

Head 2: Amendment of section 5 of Family Law (Divorce) Act 1996

## **Head 1: Short title and commencement**

Provide that:

(1) This Act may be cited as the Family Law (Divorce) (Amendment) Act 2019.

(2) This Act shall come into operation on such day as the Minister for Justice and Equality may by order appoint.

## **Head 2: Amendment of section 5 of Family Law (Divorce) Act 1996**

Provide that:

Section 5(1) of the Family Law (Divorce) Act 1996 is amended, in paragraph (a), by the substitution of “two years during the previous three years” for “four years during the previous five years”.