



Number 30 of 2005

SOCIAL WELFARE ACT 2005

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SCHEDULE 1

SCHEDULE 2

[No. 30.]

Social Welfare Act 2005.

[2005.]

ACTS REFERRED TO

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Number 30 of 2005

SOCIAL WELFARE ACT 2005

AN ACT TO AMEND AND EXTEND THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS AND TO AMEND THE HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT 1979.

[16th December, 2005]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

1.—In this Act “Principal Act” means the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005. Definitions.

2.—(1) Schedule 2 to the Principal Act is amended by substituting the Parts set out in *Schedule 1* to this Act for Parts 1 to 4 of the said Schedule 2. Social insurance benefits (new rates).

(2) This section comes into operation—

- (a) in so far as it relates to unemployment benefit, on 29 December 2005,
- (b) in so far as it relates to disability benefit, health and safety benefit, injury benefit and disablement gratuity, on 2 January 2006,
- (c) in so far as it relates to carer’s benefit, retirement pension, invalidity pension and a payment referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition of “relevant payment” in section 178 of the Principal Act, on 5 January 2006, and
- (d) in so far as it relates to disablement pension, death benefit under section 81, 82 or 83 of the Principal Act, old age (contributory) pension, widow’s (contributory) pension, widower’s (contributory) pension and orphan’s (contributory) allowance, on 6 January 2006.

3.—(1) Schedule 4 to the Principal Act is amended by substituting the Parts set out in *Schedule 2* to this Act for Parts 1 to 5 of the said Schedule 4. Social assistance payments (new rates).

- (2) This section comes into operation—
- (a) in so far as it relates to unemployment assistance, pre-retirement allowance and farm assist, on 28 December 2005,
 - (b) in so far as it relates to supplementary welfare allowance, on 2 January 2006,
 - (c) in so far as it relates to disability allowance, on 4 January 2006,
 - (d) in so far as it relates to one-parent family payment (other than where payable in respect of a widow or widower), carer's allowance and a payment referred to in paragraph (b) or (c) of the definition of "relevant payment" in section 178 of the Principal Act, on 5 January 2006, and
 - (e) in so far as it relates to old age (non-contributory) pension, blind pension, widow's (non-contributory) pension, widower's (non-contributory) pension, one-parent family payment payable in respect of a widow or widower and orphan's (non-contributory) pension, on 6 January 2006.

Family income supplement (new weekly rates).

4.—(1) The Principal Act is amended by substituting the following for section 228:

"228.—Subject to this Act, an allowance (in this Act referred to as 'family income supplement') shall be payable out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas in respect of a family where the weekly family income is less than—

- (a) in the case of a family which includes only 1 child, €465,
- (b) in the case of a family which includes 2 children, €510,
- (c) in the case of a family which includes 3 children, €565,
- (d) in the case of a family which includes 4 children, €630,
- (e) in the case of a family which includes 5 children, €705,
- (f) in the case of a family which includes 6 children, €775,
- (g) in the case of a family which includes 7 children, €845, or
- (h) in the case of a family which includes 8 or more children, €905."

(2) This section comes into operation on 5 January 2006.

Employment contributions (amendment to earnings limits and ceiling).

5.—(1) Section 13(2) of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) in paragraph (a) by substituting "€300" for "€287",
- (b) in paragraph (b) by substituting "€300" for "€287", and
- (c) in paragraph (c) by substituting "€46,600" for "€44,180".

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2006.

6.—(1) Section 29(1)(b) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting “€46,600” for “€44,180”.

Optional contributions (amendment to income ceiling).

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2006.

7.—(1) The Principal Act is amended—

Maternity benefit.

(a) in section 47—

(i) in subsection (4)(a) by substituting “twenty-fourth” for “twenty-second”,

(ii) in subsection (5)(b) by substituting “22” for “18”, and

(iii) in subsection (5)(c)(ii)—

(I) by substituting “twentieth” for “sixteenth” in each place where it occurs, and

(II) by substituting “thirty-second” for “twenty-fourth” in each place where it occurs,

and

(b) in section 49(1)(a) by substituting “80 per cent” for “75 per cent”.

(2) The Principal Act is further amended in section 47(4)(a) (as amended by *subsection (1)(a)(i)* of this section) by substituting “thirty-second” for “twenty-fourth”.

(3) (a) *Subsection (1)(a)(i)* and (b) of this section come into operation on 1 January 2006.

(b) *Subsection (1)(a)(ii)* and (iii) and *subsection (2)* of this section come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may appoint by order.

8.—(1) The Principal Act is amended—

Adoptive benefit.

(a) in section 58—

(i) in subsection (4)(b) by substituting “20” for “16” in each place where it occurs, and

(ii) by inserting the following after subsection (7):

“(8) Regulations may provide for the postponement of the payment of adoptive benefit in the event of the hospitalisation of the child in respect of whose adoption the person is entitled to that benefit, subject to the conditions and in the circumstances that may be prescribed.”,

and

(b) in section 60(1)(a) by substituting “80 per cent” for “75 per cent”.