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**AN BILLE LEASA SHOISIALAIGH (FORALACHA
ILGHNEITHEACHA), 1963.**

**SOCIAL WELFARE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
BILL, 1963.**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

1. The main purposes of the Bill are to give effect to the decision of the Government, as announced by the Minister for Finance in his Budget Statement on 23rd Aibreán, 1963, to increase Social Assistance payments from the 1st November, 1963, and to increase the rates of Social insurance benefit and contributions from the beginning of January, 1964.

The Bill also provides for an increase in the maximum yearly means which a person may have in order to qualify for a non-contributory old age pension; extends payment of allowances for children as part of contributory and non-contributory widows' pensions to include certain children who become normally resident with the widow after her husband's death; introduces a more liberal basis for calculating the yearly value of property in determining means for the purposes of a non-contributory widow's or orphan's pension; permits an allowance for a wife as part of old age (contributory) pension to be paid direct to the wife in certain circumstances; enables the widow of an old age (contributory) pensioner to qualify automatically for widow's (contributory) pension; and makes some minor improvements in the scheme of Intermittent Unemployment (Wet-Time) Insurance.

Social Assistance Schemes.

2. *Section 2* of the Bill provides for increasing all rates of non-contributory old age and blind pensions by 2/6d. a week. An additional rate of 5/- is being introduced with a corresponding extension of the qualifying yearly means limit from £130 15s. 0d. to £143 15s. 0d. The new rates are 35/- (maximum) reducing by 5/- to 5/- (minimum).

Section 3 provides for increasing both the personal and adult dependants rates of unemployment assistance by 2/6d. in both urban and rural areas. Accordingly, a recipient of unemployment assistance with an adult dependant (wife or husband) will receive an increase of 5/-.

Section 4 provides for increases of 2/6d. in the rates of widow's (non-contributory) pension and for an extension of the allowance for children as part of this pension to include children, grandchildren, stepchildren or adopted children of the widow or her husband who become normally resident with the widow after her husband's death.

Sections 5 and 6 provide for the payment of an allowance under the Children's Allowances Acts at the rate of 10/- a month in respect of the first or only child. The existing allowances in respect of the third and subsequent children are being increased by 4/6d. a month. A more liberal method of calculating the capital value of property is being introduced for the purposes of widows' and orphans' (non-contributory) pensions (*section 16*).

Social Insurance Schemes.

3. *Section 15* provides for increases (5/- per week) in the basic rates of disability and unemployment benefit, maternity allowance,

widow's (contributory) pension and old age (contributory) pension. Provision is also made in this Section for an increased allowance in respect of an adult dependant.

Section 14 provides for the increased rates of employment contributions which will be necessary to meet the employers' and insured persons' share of the improved benefits.

Section 8 provides for the increased rates of voluntary contributions. The existing and the proposed rates are as follows:—

Class	Sex	Present Rate			Proposed Rate		
		Employer	Employee	Total	Employer	Employee	Total
1. Ordinary ...	Man	5/3d.	5/3d.	10/6d.	5/11d.	5/11d.	11/10d.
	Woman	4/11d.	4/2d.	9/1d.	5/7d.	4/10d.	10/5d.
2. Agricultural ...	Man	3/-	3/-	6/-	3/8d.	3/8d.	7/4d.
	Woman	3/1d.	2/4d.	5/5d.	3/8d.	2/10d.	6/6d.
3. Sharefishermen and outworkers (other than male weavers).	Man	3/1d.	2/4d.	5/5d.	3/8d.	2/10d.	6/6d.
	Woman	3/1d.	2/4d.	5/5d.	3/8d.	2/10d.	6/6d.
4. Female Domestic ...	Woman	3/10d.	3/1d.	6/11d.	4/5d.	3/7d.	8/-
5. Temporary Army Nurses.	Woman	4/-	3/6d.	7/6d.	4/8d.	4/2d.	8/10d.
6. Soldiers ...	Man	4/11d.	3/6d.	8/5d.	5/7d.	4/2d.	9/9d.
7. Civil Servants ...	Man	1/5d.	1/5d.	2/10d.	1/7d.	1/6d.	3/1d.
	Woman	1/5d.	—	1/5d.	1/6d.	—	1/6d.
8. Voluntary contributors.	Man	—	2/10d.	2/10d.	—	3/1d.	3/1d.
	Woman	—	2/10d.	2/10d.	—	3/1d.	3/1d.
9. Voluntary contributors.	Man	—	5/5d.	5/5d.	—	6/-	6/-
	Woman	—	5/5d.	5/5d.	—	6/-	6/-

4. *Sections 7 and 9* modify the existing provisions which determine the rate of insurance contribution payable in particular employments. *Section 7* amends the definition of "domestic service" to exclude services rendered mainly in relation to students in boarding schools and colleges. *Section 9* will enable teachers in domestic science training colleges to be treated for insurance purposes in the same way as national, secondary and vocational teachers.

5. *Sections 10, 11 and 13* relate to old age (contributory) pensions.

Section 10 provides for the automatic payment of a widow's (contributory) pension to the widow of an old age (contributory) pensioner. *Section 11* provides for the payment of a benefit, equal in amount to widow's (contributory) pension, to the widower of a female old age (contributory) pensioner who received an increase of pension for her husband.

Section 13 will enable the allowance payable in respect of the wife of an old age (contributory) pensioner to be paid direct to the wife if the circumstances so warrant.

6. *Section 12* enables payment of the allowance for children as part of widow's (contributory) pension to be extended to include certain children who become normally resident with the widow after her husband's death. This provision is similar to that made for non-contributory widow's pensions in *Section 4*.

Intermittent Unemployment (Wet-Time) Insurance.

7. *Sections 17, 18 and 19* relate to the Intermittent Unemployment (Wet-Time) Insurance Scheme. *Section 17* will enable a person to be regarded as a skilled or unskilled worker after he has attained the age of 18 years instead of 21 years at present. *Sections 18 and 19* will enable supplementary (wet-time) benefit to be paid in respect of a fraction of an hour, which is not less than a half hour, where the working day contains such a fraction of an hour and the stoppage of work extends over the full day. The rate of payment will be half the appropriate hourly rate.

8. *Section 20* contains provisions for short title, construction and collective citations.

Roinn Leasa Shóisialaigh,
Iúil, 1963.