



**AN BILLE LEASA SHOISIALAIGH (COMHDHLUTHU), 1980**  
**SOCIAL WELFARE (CONSOLIDATION) BILL, 1980**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Bill consolidates enactments relating to the social welfare services administered by the Department of Social Welfare. It also incorporates provisions relating to the Supplementary Welfare Allowances scheme which is administered by the Health Boards under the direction and control of the Minister for Social Welfare.

Consolidation is a process whereby "live" provisions of existing legislation are rearranged together in one single measure. Amendments which in any way alter the existing law are not permissible. However, where the language in old enactments was considered to be archaic it has been modernised and other changes have been made to improve on the original wording of some of the enactments which are being consolidated. The Bill has been certified by the Attorney-General to be a consolidating measure.

The new Bill will replace over 60 Acts, most of which contain some provisions which are still "live". It also includes provisions of statutory instruments and statutory rules and orders which expressly amend or modify the statute law. It embraces the schemes of social insurance and social assistance, as well as the children's allowances scheme, the intermittent unemployment insurance ("Wet-Time") scheme and the school meals and fuel schemes.

*Part I* contains general rules relating to interpretation, the making of regulations and the payment of expenses out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

*Part II* contains the provisions covering the social insurance schemes, the basic enactment of which is the Social Welfare Act, 1952.

*Part III* contains the schemes of social assistance, i.e., those provided for by the Unemployment Assistance Acts, the Old Age Pensions Acts, the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Acts, the Social Welfare (Supplementary Welfare Allowances) Acts and the Social Welfare Acts.

*Part IV* contains the provisions of the Children's Allowances Acts.

*Part V* covers the "Wet-Time" scheme provided by the Insurance (Intermittent Unemployment) Act, 1942.

*Part VI* provides for the school meals and fuel schemes.

*Part VII* contains the relevant provisions of the Pension Books (Prohibition of Alienation) Act, 1932, which makes it an offence to buy, sell or take in pawn any books or documents relating to social welfare.



*Part VIII* provides for the decisions and appeals machinery under which claims to the various benefits, pensions, etc., are administered. This Part also contains some miscellaneous provisions relating to stamp duty, reciprocal arrangements, etc.

*Part IX* contains the commencement section and sections to ensure the continuity of enactments repealed and the continuance of officers appointed under the repealed enactments and of all instruments or documents made or issued under those enactments.

A Memorandum showing the enactments proposed to be repealed and the provisions of the Bill in which these enactments are reproduced is prefixed to Bill.

*An Roinn Leasa Shóisialaigh,  
Leireadh Fómhair, 1980.*

This Bill consolidates enactments relating to the social welfare services administered by the Department of Social Welfare. It also incorporates provisions relating to the Department's Welfare Allowances Scheme which are administered by the Health Board at its discretion and control of the Minister for Social Welfare. Consolidation is a process whereby "five" provisions of existing legislation are rearranged together in one single measure. Amendments which in any way alter the existing law are not permissible. However, where the language in old enactments was considered to be archaic it has been modernized and other changes have been made to improve on the original wording of some of the enactments which are being consolidated. The Bill has been certified by the Attorney-General to be a consolidating measure.

The new Bill will replace over 60 Acts, most of which contain some provisions which are still "five". It also includes provisions of statutory instruments and statutory rules and orders which expressly amend or modify the statute law. It embraces the schemes of social insurance and social assistance as well as the children's allowances scheme, the intermittent unemployment insurance ("Wet-Time") scheme and the school meals and fuel schemes.

Part I contains general rules relating to interpretation, the making of regulations and the payment of expenses out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

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Part IV contains the provisions of the Children's Allowances Act.

Part V covers the "Wet-Time" scheme provided by the Intermittent Unemployment Act, 1942.

Part VI provides for the school meals and fuel schemes.

Part VII contains the relevant provisions of the Pension Book (Provision of Allowance) Act, 1932, which makes it an offence to buy, sell or take in pawn any book or documents relating to social welfare.