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**An Bille Leasa Shóisialaigh, 2015**  
**Social Welfare Bill 2015**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

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**AN BILLE LEASA SHÓISIALAIGH, 2015**  
**SOCIAL WELFARE BILL 2015**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

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AN BILLE LEASA SHÓISIALAIGH, 2015  
SOCIAL WELFARE BILL 2015

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# Bill

*entitled*

An Act to amend and extend the Social Welfare Acts; and to provide for related matters. 5

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:**

## PART 1

### PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

#### **Short title, construction and collective citations**

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Social Welfare Act 2015. 10
- (2) The Social Welfare Acts and *Part 2* shall be read together as one.

## PART 2

### AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS

#### **Definitions**

2. In this Part— 15
  - “Act of 2010” means the Social Welfare Act 2010;
  - “Principal Act” means the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005.

#### **Social insurance benefits (new rates)**

3. (1) The Principal Act is amended, in Schedule 2— 20
  - (a) in Part 1 (amended by section 12 of the Social Welfare and Pensions Act 2013)—
    - (i) by the substitution of the following reference for reference 2(a):

“

2. Death Benefit:							
(a) pension payable to a widow, widower or surviving civil partner (section 81)	218.50	—	29.80	143.00	9.00	10.00	12.70
additional increase for a widow, widower or surviving civil partner (under section 81) who has attained pensionable age	19.20	—	—	—	—	—	—

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”

(ii) by the substitution of the following reference for reference 3:

“

3. State Pension (Contributory):	233.30	155.50	29.80	143.00	9.00	10.00	12.70
additional increase for a qualified adult who has attained pensionable age	—	53.50	—	—	—	—	—
3A. State Pension (Transition):	230.30	153.50	29.80	143.00	9.00	10.00	12.70
additional increase for a qualified adult who has attained pensionable age	—	52.80	—	—	—	—	—

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”

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(iii) by the substitution of the following reference for reference 4:

“

4. Invalidity Pension:	193.50	138.10	29.80	143.00	9.00	10.00	12.70
additional increase where a qualified adult has attained pensionable age before 2 January 2014	—	70.90	—	—	—	—	—

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”

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and

(iv) by the substitution of the following reference for reference 5:

“

5. Widow's (Contributory) Pension, Widower's (Contributory) Pension and Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension and a payment referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition of 'relevant payment' in section 178(1):	193.50	—	29.80	143.00	9.00	10.00	12.70	5
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	39.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	25

”

and

(b) in Part 4 (amended by section 3 of the Act of 2010) by the substitution of the following reference for reference 1:

“

1. Increase where the person is permanently incapable of work:	188.00	124.80	29.80	9.00	12.70			30
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained the age of 66 years	19.30	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
additional increase where the qualified adult has attained the age of 66 years	—	12.80	—	—	—	—	—	40

(2) This section comes into operation—

(a) in so far as it relates to invalidity pension and a payment referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition of “relevant payment” in section 178(1) of the Principal Act, on 7 January 2016, and

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(b) in so far as it relates to disablement pension, death benefit under section 81 of the Principal Act, State pension (contributory), widow’s (contributory) pension, widower’s (contributory) pension and surviving civil partner’s (contributory) pension, on 8 January 2016.

**Social assistance payments (new rates)**

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4. (1) The Principal Act is amended, in Schedule 4—

(a) in Part 1 (amended by section 4 of the Act of 2010)—

(i) by the substitution of the following reference for reference 4:

“

4. State Pension (Non-Contributory)	222.00	—	29.80	143.00	9.00	10.00	12.70
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”

and

(ii) by the substitution of the following reference for reference 8:

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“

8. Carer’s Allowance:							
(a) in the case of a person to whom section 181(1)(a) applies	306.00	—	29.80	—	—	10.00	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	57.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) in the case of a person to whom section 181(1)(b) applies	204.00	—	29.80	—	—	10.00	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	38.00	—	—	—	—	—	—

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and

(b) by the substitution of the Part set out in *Schedule 1* for Part 2 (amended by section 4 of the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008).

(2) This section comes into operation— 5

(a) in so far as it relates to carer’s allowance, on 7 January 2016, and

(b) in so far as it relates to State pension (non-contributory), on 8 January 2016.

### **Renaming of respite care grant**

5. (1) Each provision of the Principal Act and each instrument mentioned in *column (1)* of *Schedule 2* is amended in the manner specified in *column (2)* of *Schedule 2* opposite the mention of that provision or instrument, as the case may be, in *column (1)*. 10

(2) Every reference in any Act, or in any instrument made under any Act, passed or made before the commencement of this section, to respite care grant shall be construed as a reference to carer’s support grant.

(3) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2016. 15

### **Carer’s support grant – new rate**

6. (1) Section 225 (amended by section 5 of the Social Welfare Act 2012) of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by the substitution of “€1,700” for “€1,375”.

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 June 2016.

### **Amounts of child benefit**

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7. (1) Section 221 (amended by section 2 of the Social Welfare and Pensions (No. 2) Act 2014) of the Principal Act is amended, in subsection (1), by the substitution of “€140” for “€135”.

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2016.

### **Family income supplement (new weekly rates)**

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8. (1) The Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following section for section 228 (amended by section 5 of the Social Welfare and Pensions (No. 2) Act 2009):

“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— 30

(a) in the case of a family which includes only 1 child, €511,

(b) in the case of a family which includes 2 children, €612,

(c) in the case of a family which includes 3 children, €713,

(d) in the case of a family which includes 4 children, €834, 35

- (e) in the case of a family which includes 5 children, €960,
- (f) in the case of a family which includes 6 children, €1,076,
- (g) in the case of a family which includes 7 children, €1,112, or
- (h) in the case of a family which includes 8 or more children, €1,308.”.

(2) This section comes into operation on 7 January 2016. 5

**Payment after death – carer’s allowance**

9. (1) Section 248(2) of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) in paragraph (e), by the deletion of “or carer’s allowance” in each place that it occurs, and

(b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (e): 10

“(ea) where a person is in receipt of carer’s allowance and the relevant person in respect of whom that carer is providing full-time care and attention dies, payment of the carer’s allowance shall continue to be made for 12 weeks after the death of the relevant person.”.

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2016. 15

**Employment contributions – increase in PRSI thresholds**

10. (1) Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (2) by—

(a) the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (b):

“(b) Subject to regulations under section 14, where in any contribution week a payment of more than €352 and not exceeding €424 is made to or for the benefit of an employed contributor in respect of reckonable earnings of that employed contributor— 20

(i) a contribution shall be payable by the employed contributor, and

(ii) the rate at which that contribution shall be payable shall be the rate of 4 per cent of the amount of the reckonable earnings in that week of each employment reduced by the equivalent of the difference between €12 and one-sixth of the difference between the reckonable earnings of that contributor and €352.01 (or the equivalent thereof in the case of an employed contributor remunerated otherwise than on a weekly basis).” 25 30

(b) the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (d):

“(d) Subject to paragraph (da), subsection (8) and regulations under section 14, where in any contribution week a payment is made to or for the benefit of an employed contributor in respect of reckonable earnings of that employed contributor, a contribution shall be payable by the employed contributor’s employer— 35

(i) at the rate of 7.8 per cent of the amount of the reckonable earnings in that week to which that payment relates where those

reckonable earnings do not exceed €376 (or the equivalent thereof in the case of an employed contributor remunerated otherwise than on a weekly basis), and

- (ii) at the rate of 10.05 per cent of the amount of the reckonable earnings in that week to which that payment relates where those reckonable earnings exceed €376 (or the equivalent thereof in the case of an employed contributor remunerated otherwise than on a weekly basis).” 5

(c) the deletion of the Table to paragraph (d), and

(d) the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (da) (amended by section 13 of the Social Welfare Act 2011): 10

“(db) Subject to regulations under section 14, where in any contribution week a payment of more than €424 is made to or for the benefit of an employed contributor in respect of reckonable earnings of that employed contributor— 15

(i) a contribution shall be payable by the employed contributor, and

- (ii) the rate at which that contribution shall be payable shall be the rate of 4 per cent of the amount of the reckonable earnings in that week of each employment (or the equivalent thereof in the case of an employed contributor remunerated otherwise than on a weekly basis).” 20

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2016.

SCHEDULE 1

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (NEW RATES) - PART 2 SUBSTITUTED

“Part 2

INCREASES OF STATE PENSION (NON-CONTRIBUTORY) FOR ONE OF A COUPLE WHERE SPOUSE HAS NOT ATTAINED PENSIONABLE AGE 5

Means of claimant or pensioner	Weekly rate of increase	
(1)	(2)	
	€	
Where the weekly means of the claimant or pensioner do not exceed €30.00	146.70	10
exceed €30.00 but do not exceed €32.50	145.00	
exceed €32.50 but do not exceed €35.00	143.40	
exceed €35.00 but do not exceed €37.50	141.70	
exceed €37.50 but do not exceed €40.00	140.10	15
exceed €40.00 but do not exceed €42.50	138.40	
exceed €42.50 but do not exceed €45.00	136.80	
exceed €45.00 but do not exceed €47.50	135.10	
exceed €47.50 but do not exceed €50.00	133.50	
exceed €50.00 but do not exceed €52.50	131.80	20
exceed €52.50 but do not exceed €55.00	130.20	
exceed €55.00 but do not exceed €57.50	128.50	
exceed €57.50 but do not exceed €60.00	126.90	
exceed €60.00 but do not exceed €62.50	125.20	
exceed €62.50 but do not exceed €65.00	123.60	25
exceed €65.00 but do not exceed €67.50	121.90	
exceed €67.50 but do not exceed €70.00	120.30	
exceed €70.00 but do not exceed €72.50	118.60	
exceed €72.50 but do not exceed €75.00	117.00	
exceed €75.00 but do not exceed €77.50	115.30	30
exceed €77.50 but do not exceed €80.00	113.70	
exceed €80.00 but do not exceed €82.50	112.00	
exceed €82.50 but do not exceed €85.00	110.40	
exceed €85.00 but do not exceed €87.50	108.70	
exceed €87.50 but do not exceed €90.00	107.10	35
exceed €90.00 but do not exceed €92.50	105.40	
exceed €92.50 but do not exceed €95.00	103.70	
exceed €95.00 but do not exceed €97.50	102.10	
exceed €97.50 but do not exceed €100.00	100.40	
exceed €100.00 but do not exceed €102.50	98.80	40
exceed €102.50 but do not exceed €105.00	97.10	
exceed €105.00 but do not exceed €107.50	95.50	
exceed €107.50 but do not exceed €110.00	93.80	45

Means of claimant or pensioner (1)	Weekly rate of increase (2)	
exceed €110.00 but do not exceed €112.50	92.20	
exceed €112.50 but do not exceed €115.00	90.50	5
exceed €115.00 but do not exceed €117.50	88.90	
exceed €117.50 but do not exceed €120.00	87.20	10
exceed €120.00 but do not exceed €122.50	85.60	
exceed €122.50 but do not exceed €125.00	83.90	
exceed €125.00 but do not exceed €127.50	82.30	15
exceed €127.50 but do not exceed €130.00	80.60	
exceed €130.00 but do not exceed €132.50	79.00	20
exceed €132.50 but do not exceed €135.00	77.30	
exceed €135.00 but do not exceed €137.50	75.70	
exceed €137.50 but do not exceed €140.00	74.00	25
exceed €140.00 but do not exceed €142.50	72.40	
exceed €142.50 but do not exceed €145.00	70.70	30
exceed €145.00 but do not exceed €147.50	69.10	
exceed €147.50 but do not exceed €150.00	67.40	
exceed €150.00 but do not exceed €152.50	65.80	35
exceed €152.50 but do not exceed €155.00	64.10	
exceed €155.00 but do not exceed €157.50	62.40	40
exceed €157.50 but do not exceed €160.00	60.80	
exceed €160.00 but do not exceed €162.50	59.10	
exceed €162.50 but do not exceed €165.00	57.50	45
exceed €165.00 but do not exceed €167.50	55.80	
exceed €167.50 but do not exceed €170.00	54.20	50
exceed €170.00 but do not exceed €172.50	52.50	

Means of claimant or pensioner (1)	Weekly rate of increase (2)	
exceed €172.50 but do not exceed €175.00	50.90	
exceed €175.00 but do not exceed €177.50	49.20	5
exceed €177.50 but do not exceed €180.00	47.60	
exceed €180.00 but do not exceed €182.50	45.90	10
exceed €182.50 but do not exceed €185.00	44.30	
exceed €185.00 but do not exceed €187.50	42.60	
exceed €187.50 but do not exceed €190.00	41.00	15
exceed €190.00 but do not exceed €192.50	39.30	
exceed €192.50 but do not exceed €195.00	37.70	20
exceed €195.00 but do not exceed €197.50	36.00	
exceed €197.50 but do not exceed €200.00	34.40	
exceed €200.00 but do not exceed €202.50	32.70	25
exceed €202.50 but do not exceed €205.00	31.10	
exceed €205.00 but do not exceed €207.50	29.40	30
exceed €207.50 but do not exceed €210.00	27.80	
exceed €210.00 but do not exceed €212.50	26.10	
exceed €212.50 but do not exceed €215.00	24.50	35
exceed €215.00 but do not exceed €217.50	22.80	
exceed €217.50 but do not exceed €220.00	21.10	40
exceed €220.00 but do not exceed €222.50	19.50	
exceed €222.50 but do not exceed €225.00	17.80	
exceed €225.00 but do not exceed €227.50	16.20	45
exceed €227.50 but do not exceed €230.00	14.50	
exceed €230.00 but do not exceed €232.50	12.90	50
exceed €232.50 but do not exceed €235.00	11.20	

Means of claimant or pensioner (1)	Weekly rate of increase (2)
exceed €235.00 but do not exceed €237.50	9.60
exceed €237.50 but do not exceed €240.00	7.90
exceed €240.00 but do not exceed €242.50	6.30
exceed €242.50 but do not exceed €245.00	4.60
exceed €245.00 and do not exceed €247.50	3.00
exceed €247.50	Nil

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SCHEDULE 2

Section 5

RENAMING OF RESPITE CARE GRANT

Provision or Instrument Affected (1)	Amendment (2)	
Sections 225(1); 225(4); 225(5); 226(1); 226(2); 240(e); 241(6); 300(2)(d); 300A(1); 342(d). Rule 1(2)(b)(iva) in Part 4 of Schedule 3.	Substitute “carer’s support grant” for “respite care grant” in each place that it occurs.	5  10
Social Welfare (Consolidated Claims, Payments and Control) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 142 of 2007).	Substitute “carer’s support grant” for “respite care grant” in each place that it occurs.	15





An Bille Leasa Shóisialaigh, 2015

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# BILLE

*(mar a tionscnaíodh)*

*dá ngairtear*

Acht do leasú agus do leathnú na nAchtanna Leasa Shóisialaigh; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

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*An Tánaiste agus Aire Coimirce Sóisialaí a thíolaic,  
20 Deireadh Fómhair, 2015*

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Social Welfare Bill 2015

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# BILL

*(as initiated)*

*entitled*

An Act to amend and extend the Social Welfare Acts; and to provide for related matters.

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*Presented by the Tánaiste and Minister for Social  
Protection ,  
20th October, 2015*

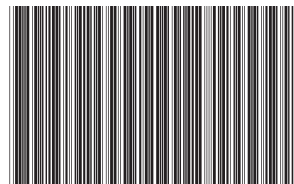
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