



DÁIL ÉIREANN

AN BILLE LEASA SHÓISIALAIGH, 2016 SOCIAL WELFARE BILL 2016

LEASUITHE TUARASCÁLA REPORT AMENDMENTS

DÁIL ÉIREANN

AN BILLE LEASA SHÓISIALAIGH, 2016 —AN TUARASCÁIL

SOCIAL WELFARE BILL 2016 —REPORT

Leasuithe Amendments

1. In page 7, after line 33, to insert the following:

“Report on one-parent family payment changes

12. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 178E:

“**178F.**(1)The Minister shall, not later than 3 months after the passing of the *Act of 2016*, cause to be prepared a report on the financial and social effects of the amendments to one-parent family payment made to this Act since 1 January 2012, taking into account the effects on welfare dependency and the poverty rates of those in receipt of one-parent family payment.

(2) The Minister shall, not later than 9 months after the passing of the *Act of 2016*, cause a copy of the report under subsection (1) to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas.

(3) In this section, “*Act of 2016*” means the *Social Welfare Act 2016*.”.

—An tAire Coimirce Sóisialaí.

2. In page 8, to delete lines 1 to 7.

—An tAire Coimirce Sóisialaí.

3. In page 8, to delete lines 8 to 13.

—An tAire Coimirce Sóisialaí.

4. In page 8, between lines 23 and 24, to insert the following:

“Child Poverty annual report

16. The Minister shall prepare and lay a report before the Houses of the Oireachtas on the State’s child poverty rates which will be carried out annually and that this report shall be issued to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection.”.

—John Brady, Denise Mitchell.

5. In page 14, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“27. (1) The Minister shall review the impact of the eligibility criteria on seasonal and part-time workers in terms of their access to Jobseekers Benefit with the intention to consider the possible increase in the payment from 6 to 9 months and from 9 to 12 months and shall bring forward a report to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection on same within 3 months of this Bill being enacted.

(2) The Minister shall review the impact of the €12.70 rate per day for subsidiary employment earnings on seasonal and part-time workers and consider the potential for increasing the payment and shall bring forward a report to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection on same within 3 months of this Bill being enacted.”.

—Thomas Pringle.

6. In page 14, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“Unfair Dismissals Employer Reimbursement

27. Any employer who has had a finding made against them of unfair dismissal under the Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007, shall reimburse the State the cost of the unfairly dismissed former employee’s social welfare payments for the period of time between the date of the former employee’s dismissal and the date on which the finding is made against the employer under the aforementioned Acts.”.

—John Brady, Denise Mitchell.

7. In page 14, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“27. Three months from the passing of this Act, the Minister shall lay a report before the Dáil on the matter of extending the Homemaker Scheme contribution years that can be disregarded for the purposes of determining the yearly average of claimants who raised families in the years prior to April 1994.”.

—Bríd Smith.

8. In page 14, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“27. The Minister is to review section 11 of the Social Welfare and Pensions Act 2013 that closed the Mortgage Interest Scheme and shall prepare and lay a report before the Houses of the Oireachtas within 3 months of this Bill being enacted, setting out the options for introducing a targeted use of the Mortgage Interest Supplement to assist people with short-term mortgage arrears problems.”.

—Joan Collins.

9. In page 14, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“27. The Social Welfare Appeals Office shall maintain and publish a database of social welfare appeals decisions.”.

—Willie O’Dea.

10. In page 14, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“27. The Pensions Act 1990 is amended by inserting a new section 48A as follows:

“48A. A solvent firm shall not be allowed to close a defined benefit pension scheme except where the scheme has reached a minimum 90 per cent funding standard for a minimum of six consecutive weeks.””.

—Clare Daly.

11. In page 14, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“27. The Pensions Act 1990 is amended in section 50 by inserting the following subsections after subsection 1D:

“(1E) Before making a direction under subsection (1), (1A) or (1B), the Pensions Authority shall require from the sponsoring employer a statement of account regarding its financial capacity to meet the underfunding in a scheme from its own resources or those of its parent without precipitating wage cuts or redundancies.

(1F) The Pensions Authority shall not direct the trustees of a pension scheme to reduce the benefits payable in respect of persons receiving benefits under the scheme or persons who have reached normal pensionable age; members in relevant employment who have not reached normal pensionable age and members whose service in relevant employment has ceased and who have not reached normal pensionable age with an entitlement to benefits the payment of which has not commenced, where a sponsoring employer or its parent have the financial capacity to meet the underfunding in the scheme without precipitating wage cuts or redundancies.””.

—Clare Daly.

12. In page 14, between lines 21 and 22, to insert the following:

“27. The Pensions Act 1990 is amended by the insertion of the following new section after section 47:

“47A.(1)No action which would have the effect of amending or winding-up a scheme may be taken by an employer, a trustee, or the Board under sections 48, 49, 50, 50A, or 50B prior to a negotiation process with scheme members, the nature and scope of which negotiation process shall be laid out by the Minister in regulations.

(2) Upon the conclusion of the negotiation process, neither the Board, the relevant employer, nor the trustees may issue a direction to wind-up a scheme without first obtaining the consent of a majority of members to do so.””.

—Clare Daly.

13. In page 14, line 23, to delete “Social Welfare Act 2016” and substitute “Social Welfare and Pensions Act 2016”.

—Clare Daly.