



**An Bille um Shláinte agus Tacaíocht Cúraim Leanaí
(Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha), 2019
Health and Childcare Support
(Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2019**

*Meabhrán Míitheach agus Airgeadais
Explanatory and Financial Memorandum*



**AN BILLE UM SHLÁINTE AGUS TACAÍOCHT CÚRAIM
LEANAÍ (FORÁLACHA ILGHNÉITHEACHA), 2019
HEALTH AND CHILDCARE SUPPORT
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2019**

**MEABHRÁN MÍNITHEACH AGUS AIRGEADAIS
EXPLANATORY AND FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM**

Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of this Bill is:

1. To make provision, in the event of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from membership of the European Union occurring without an agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union for certain matters consequent on such withdrawal. The Bill makes exceptional provision for the reimbursement of necessary medical expenses incurred by eligible residents of Northern Ireland in a Member State other than the State during a temporary stay.
2. To amend the Childcare Support Act 2018 and make provision for British citizens to access the National Childcare Scheme on the same basis as Irish citizens.

Main Provisions of the Bill

Part 1

Section 1 - Short title and commencement

This Section as well as detailing the short title of the Bill provides for the commencement of the various Parts of the Bill.

Section 2 - Is a standard provision concerning the paying of expenses in relation to the administration of the Act.

Part 2

Section 3 - Definitions and applications - sets out the definitions required for Part 2 Act.

Section 4 – Reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by eligible persons in respect of necessary medical treatment

This Section makes provision for the implementation of a scheme for the reimbursement of expenses incurred during a temporary stay by eligible persons resident in Northern Ireland in respect of necessary medical treatment.

Section 5 - Regulations

This Section provides that the Minister may make, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, regulations to provide for

the administrative arrangements to give full effect to the provision of Part 2 of the Bill. It also outlines the principles and policies which the Minister shall have regard to when drafting the regulations.

Section 6 - Administrative Arrangements between the Executive and competent Institutions

This Section provides that the HSE, for the purposes of Part 2 of the Bill, may enter into arrangements with competent institutions in other Member States. Such arrangements may cover matters such as the processing of reimbursements, the calculation of the value of medical expenses to be reimbursed, the exchange of information between the two bodies and the facilitation of other administrative and technical cooperation in relation to the reimbursement of medical expenses.

Section 7 - The Executive may have regard to certain decisions of the Administrative Commission

This Section provides that the HSE may have regard to the decisions of the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems in relation to the operation and administration of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) scheme as operated under EU Regulation 883/2004 and 987/2009.

Section 8 - Provides for the review of the operation of the Health Part of the Act.

This Section requires the HSE to carry out a review of the operation of the Act no later than 2 years after its commencement and submit a report to the Minister no later than one month after the report is conducted. The Minister shall then lay copies of the report before each House of the Oireachtas.

Part 3

Part 3 of the Bill amends the Childcare Support Act 2018 and makes provision for British citizens to access the National Childcare Scheme on the same basis as Irish citizens.

Section 9 – Definition (Part 3)

This Section is a standard interpretative provision.

Section 10 – Amendment of Section 7 of Principal Act

This Section provides for amendment to Section 7 of the Childcare Support Act 2018 to make specific reference to the eligibility of British citizens to apply for financial support under the Act.

Section 11 – Amendment of Section 15 of the Act

This Section provides for a consequential amendment to section 15 of the Childcare Support Act 2018 to provide that payment will not be made where the person does not satisfy the eligibility criteria in Section 7 of the 2018 Act (as amended by Section 7 of this Bill).

Financial Implications of the Bill

1. Provision to Certain Residents of Northern Ireland of Health Benefits Analogous to those available to European Health Insurance Card holders

The estimated cost for the implementation of a scheme which provides for the reimbursement of necessary medical expenses incurred by eligible residents of Northern Ireland is €5m in a full year.

2. Provision for British Citizens to Access the National Childcare Scheme

There are no additional costs to the exchequer relating to the proposal to make specific provision for British citizens to access the National Childcare Scheme as they are currently eligible to apply under the scheme as nationals of Member States of the European Union.

*An Roinn Sláinte agus an Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige,
Deireadh Fómhair, 2019.*

