



DÁIL ÉIREANN

AN BILLE LEASA SHÓISIALAIGH AGUS UM CHÓRAS UATHROLLAITHE COIGILTIS SCOIR (LEASÚ), 2025 SOCIAL WELFARE AND AUTOMATIC ENROLMENT RETIREMENT SAVINGS SYSTEM (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

LEASUITHE COISTE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

DÁIL ÉIREANN

AN BILLE LEASA SHÓISIALAIGH AGUS UM CHÓRAS UATHROLLAITHE COIGILTIS SCOIR (LEASÚ), 2025 —ROGHCHOISTE

SOCIAL WELFARE AND AUTOMATIC ENROLMENT RETIREMENT SAVINGS SYSTEM (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 —SELECT COMMITTEE

*Leasuithe
Amendments*

SECTION 6

1. In page 4, between lines 11 and 12, to insert the following:

“(3) The Minister shall prepare and lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas on extending parent’s benefit by 4 weeks per parent, and increasing both parents benefit and adoptive benefit to €350 per week and the report shall be presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection within 6 months of the passing of this Act.”.

—Eoin Hayes.

SECTION 7

2. In page 4, between lines 11 and 12, to insert the following:

“Report on surrogacy leave

7. The Minister shall prepare and lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas on introducing paid surrogacy leave for parents of children born by surrogacy, and the report shall be presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection within 6 months of the passing of this Act.”.

—Eoin Hayes.

SECTION 9

3. In page 5, between lines 29 and 30, to insert the following:

“(3) The Minister shall prepare and lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas on introducing a second tier of child benefit by integrating the Child Support Payment with a modified Working Family Payment to reduce child poverty, and the report shall be presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection within 6 months of the passing of this Act.”.

—Eoin Hayes.

[SECTION 11]

SECTION 11

4. In page 6, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“Amendment of section 265 of Principal Act

11. Section 265(1) of the Principal Act is amended, in paragraph (a) of the definition of “relevant purpose”—
- (a) by the substitution, in clause (III) of subparagraph (v), of “section 16 of the Student Support Act 2011,” for “or section 16 of the Student Support Act 2011, or”,
 - (b) by the substitution, in subparagraph (vi), of “the Civil Legal Aid Act 1995,” for “or the Civil Legal Aid Act 1995, or”,
 - (c) by the substitution, in subparagraph (vii), of “Childcare Support Act 2018, or” for “Childcare Support Act 2018,” (inserted by section 23(c) of the Childcare Support Act 2018), and
 - (d) by the substitution of “(viii) the provision of a service under the Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings System Act 2024,” for “(vii) the provision of a service under the Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings System Act 2024,” (inserted by section 110(a)(iii) of the Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings System Act 2024).”.

—An tAire Coimirce Sóisialaí.

SECTION 12

5. In page 7, between lines 29 and 30, to insert the following:

“(3) The Minister shall prepare and lay a report, with a timeline, before both Houses of the Oireachtas on abolishing the means test for carer’s allowance and that the report shall be presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection within 6 months of the passing of this Act.”.

—Eoin Hayes.

6. In page 7, between lines 29 and 30, to insert the following:

“(3) The Minister shall prepare and lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas on introducing a cost of disability payment, and the report shall be presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection within 6 months of the passing of this Act.”.

—Eoin Hayes.

[SECTION 12]

7. In page 7, between lines 29 and 30, to insert the following:

“(3) The Minister shall carry out a review on the rate increases that would be required in order to move towards social welfare rates which meet a Minimum Essential Standard of Living (MESL) and shall commission a departmental study on the effect that adequacy of social welfare rates could have on addressing poverty levels and the findings shall be presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection within 6 months of the passing of this Act.”.

—Eoin Hayes.

SECTION 15

8. In page 8, between lines 6 and 7, to insert the following:

“Amendment of Principal Act (disregard from income of participant contributions paid under section 59(1) of the Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings System Act 2024)

15. (1) Section 227 of the Principal Act is amended, in the definition of “weekly family income” (amended by section 11 of the Social Welfare and Pensions Act 2011), by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (aa):

“(ab) any participant contribution deducted from emoluments (within the meaning of Part 3 of the Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings System Act 2024) in accordance with section 59(1)(b) of that Act.”.

(2) Part 4 of Schedule 3 to the Principal Act is amended, in Rule 1(2)(b)(v), by the substitution of the following subclause for subclause (I):

“(I) An amount equal to the sum of the first €75 of any additional income (within the meaning of Rule 2) and 25 per cent of so much of that additional income as exceeds €75, when that additional income has been reduced by the aggregate of—

- (A) any allowable contribution referred to in Regulation 31 of the Income Tax (Employments) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 345 of 2018),
- (B) any amount deducted from reckonable earnings under section 13 and regulations made under section 14, and
- (C) any participant contribution deducted from emoluments (within the meaning of Part 3 of the Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings System Act 2024) in accordance with section 59(1)(b) of that Act.”.

(3) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2026.”.

—An tAire Coimirce Sóisialaí.

9. In page 8, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“(a) in section 11(5), by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (b):

“(c) one shall be a person who is a participant in the scheme and who may, in the opinion of the Minister, appropriately represent the

[SECTION 15]

interests of participants.”.”.

—Eoin Hayes.

10. In page 8, between lines 32 and 33, to insert the following:

“(e) in section 54(2)—

- (i) in paragraph (a), by the substitution of “1 day” for “6 months”,
- (ii) in paragraph (b), by the substitution of “1 day” for “6 months”,
- (iii) in paragraph (c), by the substitution of “1 day” for “6 months”,
- (iv) in paragraph (d), by the substitution of “1 day” for “6 months”, and
- (v) in paragraph (e), by the substitution of “1 day” for “6 months”.”.

—Louise O'Reilly.

11. In page 8, between lines 32 and 33, to insert the following:

“(e) in section 68(1), by the substitution of “the National Treasury Management Agency” for “a person or persons”.”.

—Louise O'Reilly.

12. In page 8, to delete lines 33 to 39.

—Louise O'Reilly.

13. In page 8, after line 39, to insert the following:

“(f) in section 75(1), by the substitution of “(1) The NTMA shall—” for “(1) An investment management contract shall require the investment management provider to—”.”.

—Louise O'Reilly.

14. In page 8, after line 39, to insert the following:

“(f) in section 75, by the substitution of the following for subsection (2):

“(2) The NTMA shall provide any participant on request with a copy of its statement prepared in accordance with subsection (1)(c).”.”.

—Louise O'Reilly.

15. In page 8, after line 39, to insert the following:

“(f) in section 75, by the substitution of the following for subsection (3):

“(3) The NTMA shall make provision for the obligations of the State under international agreements on environmental sustainability and climate change to be taken into account in carrying out the contract.”.”.

—Louise O'Reilly.

16. In page 9, between lines 6 and 7, to insert the following:

“(h) by the insertion of the following section:

“Report on meeting employer contribution

137A. The Minister shall, not later than 3 months after the passing of this Act, lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas assessing the ability of—

- (a) civil society organisations,
- (b) small to medium size businesses and enterprises, and
- (c) third level educational institutions,

to meet the employer contribution.”.”.

—Louise O'Reilly.

17. In page 9, between lines 6 and 7, to insert the following:

“(h) by the insertion of the following section:

“Report on the potential for a public-led investment model for auto-enrolment

137A. The Minister shall, within 3 months of the passing of this Act, prepare and lay before both Houses of the Oireachtas a report on the potential for a public-led investment model to replace the proposed private model for auto-enrolment, making reference to the potential for investment in capital infrastructure, including the green transition, in Ireland.”.”.

—Louise O'Reilly.

18. In page 9, between lines 6 and 7, to insert the following:

“(h) by the insertion of the following section:

“Report on equity of State contribution to auto-enrolment scheme

137A. The Minister shall, within 3 months of the passing of this Act, prepare and lay before both Houses of the Oireachtas a report on the comparative State supports received by workers in the auto-enrolment scheme compared to workers on a pension scheme benefiting from tax relief.”.”.

—Louise O'Reilly.

19. In page 9, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“(3) The Minister shall prepare and lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas on the membership structure of the My Future Fund and implementing a structure whereby members of the scheme who are on the default investment strategy will be transitioned from different risk categories in a partial and graduated way in order to hedge against the risks of fund transition and the report shall be presented to the

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Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection within 6 months of the passing of this Act.”.

—Eoin Hayes.

20. In page 9, between lines 8 and 9, to insert the following:

“(3) The Minister shall prepare and lay a report before both Houses of the Oireachtas on the options for reducing the investment risk for individual members of the Auto-Enrolment scheme by pooling the risk across all members of the scheme and the report shall be presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection within 6 months of the passing of this Act.”.

—Eoin Hayes.