



Number 36 of 2006

SOCIAL WELFARE ACT 2006

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SCHEDULE 1

SCHEDULE 2

[No. 36.]

Social Welfare Act 2006.

[2006.]

ACTS REFERRED TO

Health Contributions Act 1979	1979, No. 4
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Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Act 2006	2006, No. 5



Number 36 of 2006

SOCIAL WELFARE ACT 2006

AN ACT TO AMEND AND EXTEND THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS AND TO AMEND THE HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT 1979.

[19th December, 2006]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

1.—In this Act—

Definitions.

“Act of 2005” means the Social Welfare Act 2005;

“Act of 2006” means the Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Act 2006;

“Principal Act” means the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005.

2.—(1) The Parts set out in *Schedule 1* are substituted for Parts 1 to 5 of *Schedule 2* (as amended by section 4 of the Act of 2006) to the Principal Act. Social insurance benefits (new rates).

(2) This section comes into operation—

- (a) in so far as it relates to jobseeker’s benefit, on 28 December 2006,
- (b) in so far as it relates to illness benefit, health and safety benefit, injury benefit and disablement gratuity, on 1 January 2007,
- (c) in so far as it relates to carer’s benefit, State pension (transition), invalidity pension and a payment referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition of “relevant payment” in section 178 of the Principal Act, on 4 January 2007, and
- (d) in so far as it relates to disablement pension, death benefit under section 81, 82 or 83 of the Principal Act, State pension (contributory), widow’s (contributory) pension, widower’s (contributory) pension and guardian’s payment (contributory), on 5 January 2007.

(3) In its application to death benefit under section 84 of the Principal Act or bereavement grant, this section has effect in respect of persons whose entitlement to death benefit under the said section 84 or bereavement grant arises on or after 6 December 2006.

Social assistance payments (new rates).

3.—(1) The Parts set out in *Schedule 2* are substituted for Parts 1 to 3 of *Schedule 4* (as amended by sections 4 and 16(1) of the Act of 2006) to the Principal Act.

(2) This section comes into operation—

- (a) in so far as it relates to jobseeker's allowance, pre-retirement allowance and farm assist, on 27 December 2006,
- (b) in so far as it relates to supplementary welfare allowance, on 1 January 2007,
- (c) in so far as it relates to disability allowance, on 3 January 2007,
- (d) in so far as it relates to one-parent family payment (other than where payable in respect of a widow or widower), carer's allowance and a payment referred to in paragraph (b) or (c) of the definition of "relevant payment" in section 178 of the Principal Act, on 4 January 2007, and
- (e) in so far as it relates to State pension (non-contributory), blind pension, widow's (non-contributory) pension, widower's (non-contributory) pension, one-parent family payment payable in respect of a widow or widower and guardian's payment (non-contributory), on 5 January 2007.

Family income supplement (new weekly rates).

4.—(1) The following section is substituted for section 228 (as amended by section 4(1) of the Act of 2005) of the Principal Act:

"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—

- (a) in the case of a family which includes only 1 child, €480,
- (b) in the case of a family which includes 2 children, €550,
- (c) in the case of a family which includes 3 children, €625,
- (d) in the case of a family which includes 4 children, €720,
- (e) in the case of a family which includes 5 children, €820,
- (f) in the case of a family which includes 6 children, €910,
- (g) in the case of a family which includes 7 children, €1,020, or
- (h) in the case of a family which includes 8 or more children, €1,090."

(2) This section comes into operation on 4 January 2007.

5.—(1) Section 13(2) (as amended by section 5(1) of the Act of 2005) of the Principal Act is amended—

Employment contributions (amendment to earnings limits and ceiling).

(a) in paragraph (a) by substituting “€339” for “€300”,

(b) in paragraph (b) by substituting “€339” for “€300”, and

(c) in paragraph (c) by substituting “€48,800” for “€46,600”.

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2007.

6.—(1) Section 29(1)(b) (as amended by section 6(1) of the Act of 2005) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting “€48,800” for “€46,600”.

Optional contributions (amendment to income ceiling).

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2007.

7.—(1) Section 47 (as amended by section 7 of the Act of 2005) of the Principal Act is amended—

Maternity benefit.

(a) in subsection (4)(a) by substituting “fortieth” for “thirty-second”,

and

(b) in subsection (5)—

(i) in paragraph (b) by substituting “26” for “22”, and

(ii) in paragraph (c)(ii)—

(I) by substituting “twenty-fourth” for “twentieth” in each place where it occurs, and

(II) by substituting “fortieth” for “thirty-second” in each place where it occurs.

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 March 2007.

8.—(1) Section 58(4)(b) (as amended by section 8 of the Act of 2005) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting “24” for “20” in each place where it occurs.

Adoptive benefit.

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 March 2007.

9.—(1) Section 137(1) (as amended by section 18 of the Act of 2006) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting “€4,000” for “€2,700”.

Widowed parent grant — increase of grant.

(2) This section has effect in respect of persons whose entitlement to a widowed parent grant arises on or after 6 December 2006.

10.—(1) Section 156(2)(a) (as amended by section 16(1) of the Act of 2006) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting “€30.00” for “€20.00” in each place where it occurs.

State pension (non-contributory) — increase of weekly disregard.

(2) This section comes into operation on 5 January 2007.