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*Number 5 of 2006*

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**SOCIAL WELFARE LAW REFORM AND PENSIONS ACT  
2006**

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART 1

SHORT TITLE, CONSTRUCTION, COLLECTIVE CITATION AND  
COMMENCEMENT

Section

1. Short title, construction, collective citation and commencement.

PART 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS

2. Definition (*Part 2*).
3. Child benefit — new rates.
4. Renaming of certain social welfare schemes.
5. Reckonable income — amendment to definition.
6. Rates of self-employed contributions and related matters.
7. Carer's benefit — extension of duration of payment.
8. Decision by deciding officer — homemakers.
9. Old age (contributory) pension — improvement.
10. Conditions for receipt of old age (contributory) pension — amendment.
11. Old age contributory pension — automatic entitlement for invalidity pension recipients.
12. Old age (contributory) pension — automatic entitlement for retirement pension recipients.

13. Retirement pension — improvement.
14. Conditions for receipt of retirement pension — amendment.
15. Pre-retirement allowance — payment of allowance.
16. State pension (non-contributory).
17. State pension (non-contributory) — consequential amendments to Principal Act.
18. Amendment to widowed parent grant.
19. Amendment to description of social assistance.
20. Blind pension — amendments.
21. Amendment to widow's (non-contributory) pension and widower's (non-contributory) pension.
22. Amendment to one-parent family payment.
23. Amendment to transitional provisions — relevant payments.
24. State pension (non-contributory) — assessment of means.
25. Assessment of means — insertion of new Part 5.
26. Orphan's (non-contributory) pension — amendment.
27. One-parent family payment — increase in income threshold.
28. Early childcare supplement — provision.
29. Early childcare supplement — consequential amendments to Principal Act.
30. Respite care grant — increase in rate.
31. Family income supplement — improvement.
32. Provisions relating to entitlement — amendment.
33. Means assessment — amendments.
34. Supplementary welfare allowance — improvement in means assessment.
35. Personal public service number — additional specified bodies.
36. Recovery of payments from financial institutions — amendment.
37. Miscellaneous amendments to Principal Act.

### PART 3

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE PENSIONS ACT 1990

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40. Indemnity.
41. Index-linked benefits.
42. Review of actuarial work.
43. Functions of Pensions Ombudsman.
44. Miscellaneous amendments to Principal Act.

PART 4

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ACTS

45. Amendment to Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986.
46. Amendment to Freedom of Information Act 1997.
47. Amendment to Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.
48. Amendment to Carer's Leave Act 2001.

SCHEDULE 1

RENAMING OF CERTAIN SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES

SCHEDULE 2

RATES OF ASSISTANCE

SCHEDULE 3

STATE PENSION (NON-CONTRIBUTORY) — CONSEQUENTIAL  
AMENDMENTS TO PRINCIPAL ACT

SCHEDULE 4

STATE PENSION (NON-CONTRIBUTORY) — ASSESSMENT OF MEANS

SCHEDULE 5

BLIND PENSION, WIDOW'S (NON-CONTRIBUTORY) PENSION, WIDOWER'S  
(NON-CONTRIBUTORY) PENSION AND ORPHAN'S (NON-CONTRIBUTORY)  
PENSION, ONE-PARENT FAMILY PAYMENT AND CARER'S ALLOWANCE —  
ASSESSMENT OF MEANS

SCHEDULE 6

EARLY CHILDCARE SUPPLEMENT — CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO  
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SCHEDULE 7

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO PRINCIPAL ACT

SCHEDULE 8

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO PENSIONS ACT 1990

SCHEDULE 9

AMENDMENTS TO CARER'S LEAVE ACT 2001

[No. 5.]                      *Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Act 2006.*                      [2006.]

ACTS REFERRED TO

Army Pensions Acts 1923 to 1980	
Blind Persons Act 1920	10 & 11, Geo. 5, c. 49
Carer's Leave Act 2001	2001, No. 19
Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986	1986, No. 14
Comhairle Act 2000	2000, No. 1
Companies Acts 1963 to 2005	
Connaught Rangers (Pensions) Acts 1936 to 1964	
Credit Union Act 1997	1997, No. 15
Freedom of Information Act 1997	1997, No. 13
Income Tax Acts	
Military Service Pensions Acts 1924 to 1964	
Pensions (Amendment) Act 2002	2002, No. 18
Pensions Act 1990	1990, No. 25
Pensions Acts 1990 to 2005	
Social Welfare Acts	
Social Welfare Act 2005	2005, No. 30
Social Welfare and Pensions Act 2005	2005, No. 4
Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005	2005, No. 26
Taxes Consolidation Act 1997	1997, No. 39



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**SOCIAL WELFARE LAW REFORM AND PENSIONS ACT  
2006**

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AN ACT TO AMEND AND EXTEND THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS, THE PENSIONS ACT 1990, THE COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY ACT 1986, THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1997, THE TAXES CONSOLIDATION ACT 1997 AND THE CARER'S LEAVE ACT 2001.

[24th March, 2006]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

PART 1

SHORT TITLE, CONSTRUCTION, COLLECTIVE CITATION AND  
COMMENCEMENT

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Act 2006.

Short title,  
construction,  
collective citation  
and  
commencement.

(2) The Social Welfare Acts and *sections 1 to 37* of this Act shall be read together as one.

(3) *Sections 38 to 44* of this Act and the Pensions Acts 1990 to 2005 may be cited together as the Pensions Acts 1990 to 2006.

(4) *Sections 4, 5, 6, 9 to 14, 16 to 27, 31 and 33 and Part 3* of this Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may appoint by order or orders either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision, and different days may be so appointed for different purposes or different provisions.

PART 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS

2.—In this Part “Principal Act” means the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005.

Definition (*Part 2*).