

SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Social Security Act 1938, and is to come into force as from 1 August 1955, except for clause 6, which is to come into force on the date of the passing of the Bill.

Clause 2 gives the Social Security Commission a discretionary power to grant age benefits to unmarried women between fifty-five and sixty years of age who are unfit for regular employment. Where the application is received by the Commission before the end of 1955, these benefits may be granted so as to commence on 1 August 1955.

Clause 3 provides for an increase of 5s. a week in the basic or maximum rates of widows' benefits and of age, invalids', miners', sickness, and unemployment benefits where the applicants are unmarried, subject to a discretionary power for the Commission to refuse the increase where the applicant is sharing household expenses with another person.

(By virtue of section 32 of the Social Security Amendment Act 1945 the Commission may treat as an unmarried person for the purposes of *clauses 2 and 3* any person who is living apart from his or her wife or husband.)

Clause 4 extends the domestic service concession so as to enable women beneficiaries to earn up to £78 a year in domestic or nursing service in private homes or in institutions approved by the Commission as hospitals, homes for the care of the aged, or charitable institutions, without their benefits being reduced. The concession at present relates only to domestic service in a private home.

Clause 5 provides that in computing the income of beneficiaries over sixty-five years of age no account is to be taken of the first £26 of pensions or annuities received after 30 November 1955 under Part II or Part III or Part IV of the Superannuation Act 1947 or the National Provident Fund Act 1950.

Clause 6 makes it clear that the special provisions as to overseas pensions enable the Commission to reduce the rate of a benefit by an amount not exceeding the rate of an overseas pension received by the wife or husband of the beneficiary.

Hon. Mr Halstead

SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENT (No. 2)

ANALYSIS

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| <p>Title.
1. Short Title and commencement.
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Social Security Act 1938. Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority
5 of the same, as follows:

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Social Security Amendment Act (No. 2) 1955, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Social Security Act 1938 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act). Short Title and commencement.
Reprinted 1948, Vol. II, p. 1251
- 10 (2) Except as otherwise provided herein, this Act shall be deemed to have come into force on the first day of August, nineteen hundred and fifty-five.

No. 88—1

Commission may grant age benefits to unmarried women at age of fifty-five years if unable to work.

2. (1) Section fourteen of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following proviso:
 "Provided that the Commission may in its discretion grant an age benefit to any unmarried female applicant who has attained the age of fifty-five years and satisfies the Commission that by reason of physical or mental disability, or for any other good and sufficient reason, she is unable to undertake regular employment." 5

(2) Where any application for a benefit under this section is received by the Commission before the end of December, nineteen hundred and fifty-five, the Commission may grant the benefit to commence on such day as the Commission thinks fit, being not earlier than the first day of August, nineteen hundred and fifty-five. 10

Increasing rates of benefits for unmarried persons in certain cases.

3. (1) The maximum rates provided under Part II of the principal Act for— 15

- (a) Widows' benefits; and
 - (b) Age benefits, invalids' benefits, miners' benefits, sickness benefits, and unemployment benefits, where the applicants are unmarried persons,— 20
- shall be increased by thirteen pounds a year or, in the case of a weekly rate, by five shillings a week:

Provided that the Commission may in its discretion refuse to increase any benefit under this section in any case where in the opinion of the Commission the applicant is sharing household expenses with any other person. 25

(2) No account shall be taken of any increased benefit received by virtue of this section in computing the total amount received by the beneficiary for the purposes of the proviso to section nineteen of the principal Act or the proviso to section thirty-five of that Act. 30

Provision as to personal earnings from domestic or nursing service.

4. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the principal Act, the Commission may in its discretion, in computing for the purposes of Part II of that Act the income of any woman, take no account of her personal earnings up to seventy-eight pounds a year from domestic or nursing service in any private home, or in a hospital, home for the care of the aged, or charitable institution approved by the Commission for the purposes of this section: 35 40

Provided that the aggregate amount of personal earnings of which no account is taken under this section together with personal earnings of which no account is taken under subsection three of section thirty-four of the principal Act shall not in any case exceed one hundred and fifty-six pounds a year.

(2) This section is in substitution for section nineteen of the Social Security Amendment Act 1950, and that section is hereby accordingly repealed.

1950, No. 49

5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the principal Act, the Commission shall take no account of any money up to twenty-six pounds a year received after the thirtieth day of November, nineteen hundred and fifty-five, by any person who has attained the age of sixty-five years by way of retiring allowance or annuity under Part II or Part III or Part IV of the Superannuation Act 1947, or by way of pension or allowance under Part II or Part III of the National Provident Fund Act 1950, in computing—

Superannuation and National Provident Fund pensions.

1947, No. 57

1950, No. 55

(a) The income of that person for the purposes of Part II of the principal Act; or

(b) The total amount received by that person for the purposes of the proviso to section nineteen of the principal Act or the proviso to section thirty-five of that Act.

6. (1) Section sixty-five of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing subsection two, and substituting the following subsection:

Rates of benefits payable to overseas pensioners and their wives or husbands.

“(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing provisions of this Part of this Act, if an overseas pension is payable to or in respect of any person who is in receipt of a benefit under this Part of this Act, or to or in respect of the wife or husband of any such person, the Commission may in its discretion, having regard to the circumstances of the case, reduce the rate of the benefit or benefits that would otherwise be payable under this Part of this Act by an amount not exceeding the rate of the overseas pension.”

(2) This section shall come into force on the date of the passing of this Act.