Date Introduced: 21 April 1983
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. N. Blewett, M.P., Minister for Social Security

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To increase unemployment benefit for persons aged 18 years or more who have no dependants.

Background

In 1973, the same rate was set for unemployment benefit, sickness benefit and pensions.

In 1978, unemployment benefit for beneficiaries without dependants was removed from automatic indexation.

The unemployment benefit rate for persons aged 18 years or more with no dependants was increased by $2 to $53.45 a week in 1980, by $4.65 to $58.10 a week in 1981, and by $6.30 a week to $64.40 a week in 1982.

Without this Bill the rate would be 17 per cent below sickness benefit and pension rate, and after the May rise 22 per cent below.

Main Provisions

The Bill amends paragraph (1)(b) of section 112 of the Social Security Act 1947 so as to increase the rate of unemployment benefit to persons aged 18 years or more who have no dependants by $4.25 to $68.65 a week.

Such increase applies to payments of unemployed benefit falling due on or after 1 May 1983.

For further information, if required, contact:

28 April 1983

Education and Welfare Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE