

Social Security (Up-rating of Benefits) Bill

REVISED
MARSHALLED
LIST OF AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

Amendment
No.

Clause 1

BARONESS ALTMANN
BARONESS WHEATCROFT

- 1 Page 1, line 6, leave out from “if” to end of line 8 and insert “the Secretary of State had determined that the general level of earnings obtaining in Great Britain had increased by 3.8%.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would remove the provision substituting “prices” for “earnings” and retains the earnings link for the 2022-23 year by stipulating the Government will assume earnings have risen by 3.8% for the purposes of uprating. This reflects analysis from an ONS blog suggesting that the underlying rate of earnings growth was between 3.2% and 4.4%. The figure of 3.8% is chosen as the mid-way point in that range.

BARONESS ALTMANN
BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
BARONESS DRAKE
BARONESS WHEATCROFT

- 2 Page 1, line 7, leave out from first “of” to end of line 8 and insert “earnings, as adjusted to take account of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the level of earnings for the previous year, including the financial measures implemented by the Government in response to it, in light of the views of the Office of National Statistics.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment is intended to maintain the link between pension uprating and earnings while explicitly accounting for the problem that the Bill seeks to address, by adjusting the underlying rate of earnings growth for the impact of pandemic-related employment distortions and measures such as the furlough scheme, particularly in light of an ONS blog analysis suggesting that the underlying rate of earnings growth was between 3.2% and 4.4%.

BARONESS ALTMANN
 BARONESS DRAKE
 BARONESS SMITH OF NEWNHAM
 BARONESS WHEATCROFT

- 3 Page 1, line 8, at end insert “, for the purposes of paragraphs (za) to (c) of that subsection only.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment is intended to limit the application of the Bill so that it does not affect uprating the pension credit standard minimum guarantee and ensures the Pension Credit Minimum Income Guarantee is still uprated in line with earnings.

BARONESS JANKE

- 4 Page 1, line 11, leave out paragraph (a) and insert –
 “(a) for subsection (2) there were substituted –
 “(2) Subject to subsection (2A), where it appears to the Secretary of State that the general level of prices is predicted to be greater in April 2022 than it was in April 2021, they must lay before Parliament the draft of an order which increases each of the amounts referred to in subsection (1) above by a percentage not less than the percentage by which the general level of prices is predicted to be greater in April 2022 than it was in April 2021.”;”

Member’s explanatory statement

While the Bill requires the Government to increase state pension benefits by the greater of either 2.5% or inflation based on consumer prices in September 2021, this amendment would change the date of calculating inflation to April 2022.

BARONESS SHERLOCK
 BARONESS DRAKE
 BARONESS BOYCOTT
 BARONESS ALTMANN

- 5 Page 2, line 11, at end insert –
 “(3) Within six months of the passing of this Act, the Secretary of State must publish a review of the impact of this Act on pensioner poverty.
 (4) This review must be laid before both Houses of Parliament, and a Minister of the Crown must arrange to make a statement.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Government to carry out an assessment of the impact of the Government’s chosen policy option on levels of pensioner poverty.

LORD SIKKA
 BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE
 LORD DAVIES OF BRIXTON

The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

After Clause 1

BARONESS SHERLOCK
BARONESS DRAKE
BARONESS ALTMANN

6 Insert the following new Clause –

“Universal credit and state pension: mixed aged couples

- (1) Within one month of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a review of the impact of this Act on mixed aged couples who are in receipt of the state pension and universal credit.
- (2) The review must consider but is not limited to –
 - (a) rates of poverty,
 - (b) homelessness,
 - (c) health inequalities, and
 - (d) food bank usage.”

BARONESS SHERLOCK
BARONESS DRAKE

7 Insert the following new Clause –

“Energy bills and state pension

- (1) Within one month of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must publish an assessment of the impact of this Act on those in receipt of the state pension, with particular reference to their ability to pay energy bills.
- (2) The assessment must be laid before Parliament, and a Minister of the Crown must arrange to make an oral statement in each House of Parliament on the assessment.”

BARONESS JANKE

8 Insert the following new Clause –

“Review of the impact of this Act on poverty

- (1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a review of the impact of this Act on reducing the poverty levels of those in receipt of a state pension in the light of the triple lock.
- (2) The review under subsection (1) must make reference to the impact of the provisions on women in particular.
- (3) The review under subsection (1) must make recommendations as to whether further legislation on pensions up-rating should be brought forward by the Government in light of its findings for the tax year ending 5 April 2023.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Government to report on the impact of this Act in the light of on poverty, especially with regards to women.

BARONESS STROUD
LORD FREUD
BARONESS BOYCOTT
BARONESS JANKE

9 Insert the following new Clause—

“The universal credit uplift

- (1) Within the period of one month beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, Ministers of the Crown must make arrangements to move a motion for resolution as set out in subsection (2) to be debated, and voted on, by both Houses of Parliament.
- (2) The resolution is to decide whether it is desirable to reinstate the £20 uplift into Universal Credit as per the modification of the standard allowance of universal credit under the Social Security (Coronavirus) (Further Measures) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/371).”

Clause 2

LORD SIKKA

10★ Page 2, line 14, leave out subsection (2) and insert—

- “(2) Section 1 of this Act comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may appoint by regulations.
- (2A) Regulations under subsection (2) may not be made until the Secretary of State has laid a report before Parliament setting out how the National Insurance Fund would be affected if such regulations—
 - (a) were made, and
 - (b) were not made.
- (2B) Section 2 of this Act comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.”

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