

A
B I L L

TO

Require billing authorities and local authorities to contact pensioners who may be entitled to council tax benefit.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Amendment of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992

- (1) The Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (c. 4) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 123(4)(a) (steps to be taken to make persons aware of entitlement), for the words “such steps”, substitute the words “the step specified in subsection (5) and such other steps”. 5
- (3) After section 123(4), insert—
- “(5) The step specified in this subsection is to contact each person of pensionable age to whom subsection (4)(a) applies—
- (a) by sending him a personally-addressed letter at the address of the chargeable dwelling in respect of which council tax is payable by him, or 10
- (b) by visiting him in person at that dwelling, or
- (c) by doing both those things,
- in order to inform him that he may be entitled to council tax benefit.” 15
- (4) In section 137(1), after the definition of “billing authority”, insert—
- “‘chargeable dwelling’ has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;”.

2 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of money so provided under any other enactment. 20

3 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Council Tax Benefit (Entitlement Information) Act 2005.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order appoint. 5
- (3) The power to make orders under subsection (2) includes power to make different provision in relation to commencement in –
 - (a) England,
 - (b) Scotland, and
 - (c) Wales. 10
- (4) The power to make orders under subsection (2) is exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (5) Before acting under subsection (2) in relation to Scotland, the Secretary of State shall consult the Scottish Ministers.
- (6) Before acting under subsection (2) in relation to Wales, the Secretary of State shall consult the National Assembly for Wales. 15
- (7) This Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.

Council Tax Benefit (Entitlement Information) Bill

A

B I L L

To require billing authorities and local authorities to contact pensioners who may be entitled to council tax benefit.

*Presented by Tony Baldry
supported by
Hugh Bayley, Dr Hywel Francis,
Mr John Burnett, Dr Ewan Harris,
Mr Robert Jackson and Mr John Bercow.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be printed, 12th January 2005.*

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2005
*Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to the Copyright Unit,
Her Majesty's Stationery Office, St. Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich, NR3 1BQ*

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx

Bill 33

(xxxxxx)

53/4

xxxbarxxx