



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Bill and Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 15 May 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Bill (the Bill)

- 1 **noted** that as part of Budget 2024, Cabinet agreed to:
 - 1.1 reduce expenditure on housing subsidies by changing the way accommodation costs are calculated when a person receives board payments;
 - 1.2 authorise the Minister for Social Development and Employment, the Associate Minister of Housing and other Ministers as appropriate to make final decisions on the policy details;

[CAB-24-MIN-0148.74]
- 2 **noted** that in January 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee expanded this authorisation for the Minister of Housing, the Minister for Social Development and Employment, and the Associate Minister of Housing to make final decisions on the policy [ECO-25-MIN-0002];
- 3 **approved** the Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Bill [PCO 26949/8.1] for introduction;
- 4 **noted** that the Bill gives effect to the policy decisions made by the Minister of Housing, Minister for Social Development and Employment and the Associate Minister of Housing, under their delegated authority;
- 5 **noted** that the Social Assistance Legislation (Accommodation Supplement and Income-related Rent) Amendment Bill holds a category 2 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme;

Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Bill

- 6 **agreed** to the inclusion of regulation-making powers in the Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Bill that allow for:
- 6.1 the removal of specified benefits that are subject to mandatory reviews;
 - 6.2 prescribing the circumstances when the Ministry of Social Development would not be required to initiate or undertake a mandatory review for clients or a group of clients;
- 7 **approved** the Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Bill [PCO 27428/9.0] for introduction;

In respect of both Bills

- 8 **authorised** the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make editorial corrections, or other non-substantive (policy neutral) drafting changes, to both Bills in preparation for introduction to the House of Representatives;
- 9 **agreed** that both Bills will be introduced on 22 May 2025 as part of Budget night legislation;
- 10 **agreed** that the Government pass both Bills under urgency on 22 May 2025.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon James Meager
Stuart Smith, MP
Jamie Arbuckle, MP
Todd Stephenson, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG