

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

No. 131 of 2000

REGUALTIONS made by the Minister responsible for Social Security in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21 and 64 of the Social Security Act, Chapter 34 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 1980-90, and all other powers thereunto him enabling.

(Gazetted 23rd December, 2000.)

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Short title.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY (BENEFIT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2000

and shall be read and construed as one with the Social Security (Benefit) Regulations which, as amended, are hereinafter referred to as the principal Regulations.

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188/94
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2. Regulation 5 of the principal Regulations is hereby amended as follows.

Amendment of
regulation 5.

(i) Regulation subregulation (1) and replacing it with the following:

"(1) (a) With effect from 1st January 2001, an insured person who is eligible for sickness benefit shall be entitled to receive such benefit from the **third** day of any continuous period of incapacity for work.

(b) With effect from 1st January 2002, an insured person who is eligible for sickness benefit shall be entitled to receive such benefit from the **second** day of any continuous period of incapacity for work.

(c) Notwithstanding subregulation (1) (a) and (b) above, where the incapacity continues for an interrupted period of fourteen day or more, the insured person shall be eligible to receive sickness benefit from the **first** day of the said incapacity.

(d) With effect from 1st January 2003, an insured person who is eligible for sickness benefit shall be entitled to receive such benefit from the **first**

day of any continuous period of incapacity for work.

(e) For the purpose of computing the first two days or one day as the case may be, of any continuous period of incapacity for work, Sundays and public holidays shall be included in such computation."

(ii) By deleting the words and brackets "(excluding Sunday)" in subregulation (3) thereto.

Amendment of regulation 6.

3. Regulation 6 of the principal Regulations is hereby amended by repealing subregulation (1) thereto and replacing it with the following:

"(1) The weekly rate of sickness benefit shall be eighty percent of the average weekly insurable earnings for the first one hundred and fifty-six days and sixty percent of the average weekly insurable earnings for the remaining seventy-eight days of incapacity to work and the daily rate of sickness benefit shall be one-seventh of the applicable weekly amount."

4. Regulation 11 of the principal Regulations is hereby amended as follows: **Amendment of regulation 11.**

(1) In paragraph (a) thereto, by substituting the words "fourteen weeks" **for** the words "twelve weeks" occurring therein.

(2) By substituting the words "seven weeks" **for** the words "six weeks" wherever occurring therein.

5. Regulation 16 of the principal Regulations (pertaining to maternity grant) is hereby amended in subregulation (3) thereto by substituting the words "three hundred dollars" **for** the words "one hundred dollars" occurring therein. **Amendment of regulation 16.**

6. The proviso to subregulation (2) of regulation 21 of the principal Regulations (relating to invalidity grant) is hereby amended by substituting the words "eight hundred dollars" **for** the words "four hundred dollars" occurring therein. **Amendment of regulation 21.**

7. Subregulation (4) (a) of regulation 26 of the principal Regulations (relating to retirement pension) is hereby amended by substituting the words "forty-seven dollars" **for** the words "thirty-five dollars", occurring therein. **Amendment of regulation 26.**

8. Regulation 27 (2) of the principal Regulations is hereby repealed and replaced by the following: **Amendment of regulation 27.**

"(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of

regulation 26, the weekly amount of retirement pension payable under paragraph (1) above shall be \$47.00 or 25 percent of average weekly insurable earnings if less than 500 contributions have been paid or credited."

Amendment of regulation 28.

9. The proviso to subregulation (1) of regulation 28 of the principal Regulations (relating to retirement grant) is hereby amended by substituting the words "eight hundred dollars" **for** the words "four hundred dollars", occurring therein.

Amendment of regulation 30.

10. Regulation 30 of the principal Regulations (relating to survivors' benefit) is hereby amended as follows:

(1) in subregulation (2) thereof by the addition of the words, "of no less than eight hundred dollars."

(2) By the addition of the following at the end of regulation 30

"Increase in invalidity, retirement, survivors' and disablement pension

30A There shall be an increase of twenty per centum (20 %) of the invalidity, retirement, survivors' and disablement pensions and where such benefits are below the minimum rate of forty-seven dollars (\$47.00) per week they shall be raised to such minimum rate."

Amendment of regulation 38.

11. Regulation 38 of the principal Regulations (relating to personal injury) is hereby amended by the addition of the following immediately after the word "accident" occurring in line 2 thereof: "(including accidents to and from work)".

12. Regulation 39 of the principal Regulations is hereby amended by deleting the words "(disregarding Sundays)" occurring in regulation (3) thereof.

Amendment of regulation 39.

13. (1) Regulation 41 of the principal Regulations is hereby amended as follows.

Amendment of regulation 41.

(i) By repealing subregulations (1) and (2) and replacing them as follows:

"(1) (a) With effect from 1st January 2001, an insured person who is eligible for injury benefit shall be entitled to receive such benefit from the **third** day of any continuous period of incapacity for work.

(b) With effect from 1st January 2002, an insured person who is eligible for injury benefit shall be entitled to receive such benefit from the **second** day of any continuous period of incapacity for work.

(c) Notwithstanding subregulation (1) (a) and (b) above, where the incapacity continues for an uninterrupted period of fourteen days or more, the insured person shall be eligible to receive injury benefit from the **first** day of the said incapacity.

(d) With effect from 1st January 2003, an insured person who is eligible for injury benefit shall be entitled to receive such

benefit from the **first** day of any continuous period of incapacity for work.

(e) For the purpose of computing the first two days or one day as the case may be, of any continuous period of incapacity for work, Sundays and public holidays shall be included in such computation."

(ii) In subregulations (3) and (4) thereof by deleting the following: "(Sunday being disregarded)", occurring in those subregulations and replacing them with the words, "(including Sundays)".

**Amendment of
First Schedule.**

14. The First Schedule to the principal Regulations is hereby amended as follows:

(i) In item 1 (relating to injury benefit), by deleting the words "one sixth of the weekly rate" occurring therein and replacing them with the words "one-seventh of the weekly rate" **and** by deleting the words "(Sundays being disregarded)" occurring at the end thereof.

(ii) In item 3 (relating to disablement pension), by deleting the words "thirty-five dollars" occurring in the **proviso** thereto and replacing them with the words "forty-seven dollars."

15. These Regulations shall come into force on the 01 day of January, 2001.

MADE by the Minister responsible for Social Security this 28th day of November, 2000.

(RALPH FONSECA)

Minister responsible for Social Security