



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

Housing Benefit Act No. 75/2016 as amended by Act No. 80/2018.

Where mention is made in this Act of ‘the minister’ or ‘the ministry’ without further definition, the reference intended is to the Minister of Social Affairs and Equality or to the Ministry of Welfare, which is responsible for the implementation of this Act. Information on the division of responsibilities between ministries according to a presidential decree may be found [here](#).

CHAPTER I

Scope, aim and definitions.

Article 1

Scope.

This Act applies to housing benefit paid to tenants.

Article 2

Aim.

The aim of this Act is to reduce lower-income tenants’ housing costs through the payment of benefit in connection with the rental of residential premises.

Article 3

Definitions.

In this Act, the following terms are used as defined below.

1. *Half-way house*: A residential home operated with the aim of promoting the rehabilitation of individuals who in most cases have been in treatment or rehabilitation institutions, or in prison.
2. *Residence*: The situation in which an individual lives in the rented premises and is registered as being domiciled there according to the Domicile [and Residence]¹⁾ Act.
3. *Members of the household*: All those who are resident in the rented residential premises.
4. *Housing benefit*: Monthly payments made to reduce lower-income tenants’ housing costs in Iceland.
5. *Studies*: Continuous studies, practical or theoretical, in a recognized educational institution within the ordinary educational system in Iceland which last for at least six months. The term also applies to post-secondary-level (university level) studies and all other studies for which the requirements regarding prior studies are comparable to those made for university studies. Individual short courses are not regarded as constituting studies.

¹⁾ Act No. 80/2018, Article 20. This amendment will take effect on 1 January 2019.

CHAPTER II

Administration.

Article 4

Supervision.

The Minister shall exercise supervision of housing benefit under this Act.

Article 5

Administrative entity.

The Directorate of Labour shall handle the administration of housing benefit payments under this Act. When decisions are made concerning rights and obligations under this Act, the Administrative Procedure Act shall apply.

The cost of the application of this Act shall be paid by the Treasury in accordance with the budget legislation at any given time.

The Minister may issue further rules in a regulation¹⁾ on procedure under this Act, including electronic access and processing.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 1200/2016.

Article 6

Authorisation for appeals to the Welfare Appeals Committee.

Appeals against decisions taken by the administrative entity on the basis of this Act may be lodged with the Welfare Appeals Committee within three months of the date on which the party was informed of the decision (*cf.* the Welfare Appeals Committee Act). The Welfare Appeals Committee Act and the Administrative Procedure Act shall apply regarding the handling of the case by the committee.

Rulings by the Welfare Appeals Committee on the application of this Act shall be final at the executive level and may not be referred to a higher executive authority.

Article 7

Non-disclosure obligation.

Those who are involved in the application of this Act may not divulge to unauthorised persons information of a personal nature of which they gain knowledge in the course of their work and which, according to law or the nature of the case, should be kept confidential. This non-disclosure obligation shall remain in force even after the person leaves his/her position.

CHAPTER III

Qualifying conditions for housing benefit.

Article 8

Monthly housing benefit payments.

Housing benefit payments are monthly payments made to the applicant (*cf.*, however, the fourth paragraph of Article 21) and shall be determined and calculated with reference to the base amounts which take account of the number of members of the household (*cf.* item 3 of Article 3), having account to income (*cf.* Article 17), assets (*cf.* Article 18) and participation in the payment of housing costs (*cf.* Article 19).

Article 9

Qualifying conditions for housing benefit.

Any person who rents residential premises is entitled to housing benefit providing the conditions of this Act are met.

Housing benefit under this Act shall only be granted if the following conditions are met:

- a. the applicant and the other persons named by the applicant as members of the household in the application are resident in the residential premises (*cf.*, however, Article 10);
- b. the applicant is 18 years old or over;
- c. the premises are residential premises in Iceland consisting of normal and satisfactory household facilities with at least one bedroom, together with a private kitchen or private cooking facility, a private toilet and bathroom facility (*cf.*, however, Article 11);
- d. the applicant is a party to a registered lease covering the residential premises that is to run for at least three months (*cf.*, however, Article 12);
- e. the applicant and other members of the household aged 18 years and older shall have given their written authorisation for the gathering of information (*cf.* the second paragraph of Article 14).

Housing benefit under this Act shall not be granted:

- a. if the applicant or any of the other persons whom the applicant designates in the application as members of the household is already considered as the member of another household in rented premises (*cf.*, however, the third paragraph of Article 10) according to an application for housing benefit that has been approved;
- b. for premises that are intended for purposes other than residence but are rented for residence, in their entirety or in part;
- c. for the rental of part of a residential housing unit, e.g. for the rental of single rooms (*cf.*, however, Article 11);
- d. if any member of the household is entitled to support for mortgage interest;
- e. when any member of the household is the owner of the residential premises in question; the same shall apply when the owner of the residential premises is a legal person, providing that the member of the household, or his/her spouse or cohabiting partner, holds a controlling position there by virtue of ownership share or membership of the board; an individual is considered as holding a controlling position in this context if he/she, together with his/her spouse, cohabiting partner, children, parents, siblings, other close relatives or household member or members, owns a total share of 50% or more in the legal person in question;
- f. when housing benefit is already being paid in respect of the same residential premises.

The administrative entity shall assess whether the conditions of this Act are met.

Article 10

Exemption from the conditions regarding residence.

Notwithstanding the condition of indent *a* of the second paragraph of Article 9 regarding residence, an individual may be entitled to housing benefit in respect of rented residential premises even though he/she is registered as being legally domiciled elsewhere in Iceland, providing that he/she is temporarily resident in the premises:

- a. in connection with studies (*cf.* item 5 of Article 3) which he/she is pursuing far from his/her legal domicile, providing that he/she submits a certificate of attendance of an educational institution;
- b. in connection with illness, providing that he/she submits a certificate from a physician stating that it is necessary for him/her to make use of health services far from his/her registered place of domicile;
- c. in connection with residence in a half-way house (*cf.* item 1 of Article 3), providing that he/she submits confirmation from the half-way house in question stating that he/she is temporarily resident there, and what his/her housing costs are,
- d. for up to three years in connection with work which he/she performs far from his/her registered place of domicile, providing that an employment contract is submitted in confirmation of this.

Notwithstanding the condition of indent *a* of the second paragraph of Article 9 regarding residence, children under the age of 18 years who are temporarily resident with foster-parents under placement in temporary foster care according to the Child Protection Act shall be regarded as members of the household of their parents or legal guardians. The same shall apply when a child under the age of 18 years is temporarily resident in a school boarding hostel or student residence, providing that the child is registered as being legally domiciled with his/her parents or legal guardian (*cf.*, however, the third paragraph).

When a child's parents do not live together, then notwithstanding the condition of indent *a* of the second paragraph of Article 9 regarding residence, the child shall be regarded as being resident at his/her registered place of domicile and also in the residential premises of the parent or guardian with whom he/she is not registered as being domiciled, providing that the child lives with that parent or guardian for at least 30 days each year under an access agreement that has been approved by a district commissioner (*cf.* the fifth paragraph of Article 46 of the Children Act), an access ruling by a district commissioner under Article 47 or Article 47 *a* of the same Act, or a court judgment or a settlement made in court. In such cases, the child shall be considered as a member of the household of both parents, or legal guardians, until he/she reaches the age of 18 years.

Article 11

Exemptions from the conditions regarding residential premises.

Notwithstanding the conditions of indent *c* of the second paragraph and indent *c* of the third paragraph of Article 9 regarding residential premises, housing benefit may be paid where individuals share premises in the following cases due to their social circumstances, providing that the other conditions of this Act are met.

- a. Where disabled persons live in communal residences provided as housing solutions under Article 10 of the Act on the Affairs of Disabled People.
- b. Where individuals share premises in a half-way house (*cf.* item 1 of Article 3).
- c. Where students share premises in school boarding hostels or student residences connected with recognised educational institutions within the ordinary educational system in Iceland.

Article 12

Exemptions from the condition regarding the registration of leases.

Notwithstanding the condition of indent *d* of the second paragraph of Article 9 regarding a registered lease, providing that the other conditions of this Act are met, housing benefit may be paid even though no registered lease is available in the following circumstances.

- a. The rental of residential premises owned by the state, a local authority or a corporation that is wholly owned by the state or a local authority, providing that a written lease exists.
- b. The rental by students of a room or apartment in a school boarding hostel or student residence connected with a recognised educational institution within the ordinary educational system in Iceland, providing that a written lease exists.
- c. The temporary use by a holder of residence rights under the fifteenth paragraph of Article 20 of the Housing Cooperatives Act, the respondent under item 6 of the first paragraph of Article 28 of the Sale in Execution Act or the tenant, under item 11 of the first paragraph of Article 28 of the same Act, of residential premises which he/she had for private use at the time of the sale in execution for up to twelve months, in return for payment, according to a decision by a district commissioner.
- d. Where individuals live communally in half-way houses (*cf.* item 1 of Article 3), providing that a written lease exists.

CHAPTER IV

Applications for housing benefit; obligation to provide information.

Article 13

Applications for housing benefit.

Applicants shall apply for housing benefit to the administrative entity as defined in Article 5. Applications shall be made in writing, on special forms, and shall be accompanied by the necessary materials. The administrative entity may call for any further information and materials it considers necessary in order to verify the applicant's entitlement to housing benefit. Members of the applicant's household aged 18 years and over shall sign the application in confirmation of the information contained therein.

Applications shall be processed when all the necessary information and materials have been received. The administrative entity may turn down an application for housing benefit if the necessary information and materials have not been received 45 days after the date on which the application was received by the administrative entity.

The Minister may set further rules in a regulation¹⁾ on applications for housing benefit, whether they are made electronically or on paper, how electronic applications are to be signed, what information is to be included in applications and what materials are to accompany them, how the materials that are supposed to accompany electronic applications are to be submitted and the length of time for which applications are to remain valid.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 1200/2016.

Article 14

Obligation of applicants and other members of their households to submit information.

Applicants shall provide the administrative entity with all the information and supporting materials that are required and are necessary to verify their entitlement to housing benefit.

Applicants and other members of their households aged 18 years and over shall give written authorisations permitting the administrative entity to obtain the information and materials necessary to process their applications for housing benefit and apply this Act in other respects.

Applicants shall inform the administrative entity of any changes that may occur in their personal circumstances or those of the other members of their households or other matters that may affect their entitlement to housing benefit under this Act during the time for which they receive housing benefit payments.

Article 15

Authorisation to obtain information.

The administrative entity may, after receiving a written authorisation from the applicant and the other members of the household aged 18 years and over (*cf.* the second paragraph of Article 14) obtain all information from the tax authorities, the National Register, the Icelandic Student Loan Fund, local authorities, district commissioners, landlords of residential premises under items *a*, *b* and *d* of Article 12 and recognised educational institutions within the ordinary educational system in Iceland that is necessary to be able to apply this Act. The same shall apply, as appropriate, to the obtaining of necessary information from comparable entities abroad.

The entities listed in the first paragraph shall provide the administrative entity with information that has been requested; non-disclosure provisions in law shall not interfere with the obligation to provide such information. Information and materials which the administrative entity has requested, and which it is possible to provide, shall be provided without recompense and in the form required (*cf.*, however, the second sentence of the first paragraph of Article 18 of the National Register and Public Registration Act).

The administrative entity may obtain information under the first paragraph electronically or in such other manner as it decides. Measures shall be taken to ensure that the gathering of the information and the processing of personal data do not exceed what is necessary for the application of this Act.

If an applicant or another member of the household considers that information which the administrative entity obtains from the entities listed in the first paragraph is incorrect, the person concerned shall inform the administrative entity of this and submit materials to confirm the allegation.

CHAPTER V

Calculation of housing benefit.

Article 16

Basic amounts of housing benefit payments.

The basic amounts of housing benefit payments take account of the number of members of the household, irrespective of their ages, according to the following coefficients.

<i>No. of members of the household</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>
1	1
2	1.3225806
3	1.5483871
4 or more	1.6774194

The basic amounts of housing benefit per year are as follows.

<i>No. of members of the household</i>	<i>Basic housing benefit</i>
1	ISK 372,000
2	ISK 492,000
3	ISK 576,000
4 or more	ISK 624,000

Earnings, assets and participation in the payment of housing costs according to Articles 17–19 shall reduce the basic amounts of housing benefit payments under the second paragraph.

Changes in the premises on which housing benefit is calculated under Articles 16–19 shall affect entitlement to housing benefit as from the change of month after which they occur.

The basic amounts according to the second paragraph shall be revised when the state budget is passed each year, taking account of trends in wages, price-levels and the economy. When the aforementioned conditions result in an increase in the amounts under the second paragraph, the Minister shall issue a regulation amending them.

Article 17

Effect of earnings on the basic amounts of housing benefit.

When housing benefit is calculated, the basic amounts stated in the second paragraph of Article 16 shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to 9% of the aggregate annual earnings of the members of the household who are 18 years old and over in excess of the following earnings thresholds, which are based on the payment of housing benefit for a full calendar year and take account of the number of members of the household, irrespective of their age, according to the coefficients given in the first paragraph of Article 16.

<i>No. of members of the household</i>	<i>Earnings thresholds (annual earnings)</i>
1	ISK 3,100,000
2	ISK 4,100,000
3	ISK 4,800,000
4 or more	ISK 5,200,000

The assessment is to take account of earnings made in the same period within each calendar year as housing benefit payments are made (*cf.*, however, the third paragraph of Article 20). When entitlement to housing benefit is based on part of a calendar year, the earnings thresholds under the first paragraph shall be scaled down in proportion to a full calendar year, so corresponding to the number of months within the calendar year which grant entitlement to housing benefit.

In this Act, 'earnings' means all earnings as defined in Chapter II of the Income Tax Act, taking account of deductions under items 1, 3, 4 and 5 of Section A of the first paragraph, and the second paragraph, of Article 30, and deductions under Article 31 of the same Act.

The amounts of the earnings thresholds under the first paragraph shall be revised when the state budget is passed each year, taking account of trends in wages, price-levels and the economy. When the aforementioned conditions result in an increase in the amounts under the first paragraph, the Minister shall issue a regulation¹⁾ amending them.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 1200/2016, *cf.* No. 1197/2017.

Article 18

Effect of assets on the basic amounts of housing benefit.

The basic amounts under the second paragraph of Article 16, with reductions, as appropriate, in view of earnings according to Article 17, shall be reduced in proportion to the aggregate assets of all the members of the household who are aged 18 years and over in excess of ISK 6,500,000 until they cease to apply completely when 60% of that amount is reached.

This assessment shall be based on assets at the end of the calendar year during which payments of housing benefit were made. Nevertheless, real-estate property or habitation rights under the Housing Cooperatives Act which may be the basis of an entitlement to receive support for mortgage interest shall not be counted as assets under the first paragraph if the real-estate property or habitation rights were not owned by the applicant or other members of the household while housing benefit payments were made during the calendar year.

In this Act, 'assets' means all assets as defined in Article 72 of the Income Tax Act, following the deduction of debts under the first paragraph of Article 75 of the same Act (*cf.*, however, the second sentence of the second paragraph).

The amounts of the asset threshold under the first paragraph shall be revised when the state budget is passed each year, taking account of trends in wages, price-levels and the economy. When the aforementioned conditions result in an increase in the amount, the Minister shall issue a regulation amending it. The Minister may also issue a regulation changing the proportion of the asset threshold at which entitlement to housing benefit ceases to apply under the first paragraph.

Article 19

Effect of housing costs on the basic amounts of housing benefit.

At no time may housing benefit payments exceed the equivalent of 75% of housing costs associated with the residential premises in question.

‘Housing costs’ in this Act refers to that part of the rent that is paid for the use, under rental, of the premises. Other payments and cost components which the tenant is obliged to pay according to a contract or by law, e.g. for heating, water, electricity, contributions to the residents’ association’s fund, maintenance, etc., are not considered as constituting housing costs for the purposes of this Act.

Article 20

Calculation of housing benefit.

The administrative entity shall base its calculation of housing benefit for each month on 1/12 of the estimated earnings and assets of the members of the household who are 18 years or over, in the calendar year in which housing benefit payments are made, together with the number of members of the household and the housing costs (*cf.* also Articles 16–19). However, when entitlement to housing benefit covers only part of the calendar year, then the calculation shall be based on earnings estimated for the same period of the calendar year as that during which housing benefit payments are made. Each month shall be taken as being 30 days.

The administrative entity shall base its estimates under the first paragraph on the latest information available at any given time (*cf.* Articles 14 and 15).

If the rental period begins after the first day of the month or ends before the last day of the month, entitlement to housing benefit for that month shall be proportional to that for a full month under the first paragraph; thus, it shall be based on the number of days in the month that are covered by the payment period as a proportion of the total number of days in the month (*cf.* also the third sentence of the first paragraph). The administrative entity shall base its calculation on the earnings of the members of the household, aged 18 years and over, for the full month.

The Minister may issue a regulation¹⁾ containing further rules on the calculation of housing benefit, including as regards procedure when an applicant for housing benefit criticises the calculation by the administrative entity.

¹⁾ Regulation No. 1200/2016.

CHAPTER VI

Payment of housing benefit.

Article 21

Payment of housing benefit.

Housing benefit shall be paid to applicants on the first day of each calendar month, retrospectively, in respect of the rent period during the preceding calendar month, or part of that calendar month if the rental period began after the first day, or ended before the last day, of the calendar month. Agreements made between the parties regarding payment in advance shall have no effect on this.

Housing benefit shall be due for payment for the first time on the first day of the calendar month following the verification of entitlement to housing benefit. However, housing benefit shall be calculated from, and including, the calendar month in which the administrative entity receives the application for housing benefit, in respect of the rental period in that calendar month, or part of that month if the rental period began after the first day of the calendar month. Housing benefit may not be paid in respect of periods further back in time. Notwithstanding the first and second sentences, housing benefit may only be paid for a calendar month, or part of a calendar month, when the rental period has begun, and shall be due for disbursement on the first day of the following calendar month.

Housing benefit shall not be paid each month as provided for in the first paragraph if the calculated housing benefit amount is under ISK 1,000 per month. In such cases, the sum owed shall be paid once each year, in December. The amount under the first sentence shall be reviewed each year, and the Minister may raise it by means of a regulation, taking account of price-level changes.

The administrative entity may pay housing benefit to the landlord in accordance with a written request from the applicant.

Housing benefit payments shall cease as from the change of month following the time when the conditions of this Act are no longer met (*cf.*, however, the fourth paragraph of Article 22). However, housing benefit payments shall cease as from, and including, the day on which the lease expires.

Article 22

When a member of the household turns 18.

If a member of the household turns 18 during the period for which housing benefit is paid, the administrative entity shall obtain his/her authorisation to obtain all necessary information and materials in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 14 when he/she turns 18.

The administrative entity may temporarily defer the payment of housing benefit by up to 60 days as from, and including, the first day of the second month after the member of the household turns 18 and until his/her authorisation as provided for in the first paragraph has been obtained. The administrative entity shall inform the applicant at least 30 days before the member of the household turns 18 that it intends to withhold payments unless authorisation is received from the member of the household in accordance with the first paragraph.

When the authorisation as provided for in the first paragraph has been obtained, the administrative entity shall recalculate housing benefit on the basis of the new information on the earnings and assets of all members of the household who are 18 years old and over (*cf.* the first paragraph of Article 25). If the recalculation of housing benefit results in a change in the amount of housing benefit, then housing benefit shall be corrected in accordance with Article 26.

If the administrative entity does not receive the authorisation from the member of the household as provided for in the first paragraph within the time limits that apply to the deferral of payments as provided for under the second paragraph, the applicant's entitlement to housing benefit shall lapse.

CHAPTER VII

Monitoring and the recalculation of housing benefit.

Article 23

Monitoring.

The administrative entity shall regularly verify the information on which decisions on housing benefit entitlement are taken.

The Minister may issue a regulation¹⁾ containing further rules on how monitoring is to be carried out.

¹⁾ *Regulation No. 1200/2016.*

Article 24

Deferral of payments.

The administrative entity may withhold housing benefit payments that have previously been determined for the applicant for up to 60 days from the date when they were due to have been made when the administrative entity has reason to suspect that the applicant, or another member of the household, no longer meets the conditions of this Act, has received excess payment of housing benefit or has failed to discharge his/her obligation to provide information under Article 14. When such suspicions arise, the administrative entity shall, without undue delay and at least five working days prior to the next housing benefit payment date under the first paragraph of Article 21, inform the applicant that it intends to withhold the payment.

If the administrative entity finds that the applicant was entitled to part or all of a payment that was withheld under the first paragraph, the administrative entity shall pay the amount no later than the next payment date according to the first paragraph of Article 21, with interest for the period during which the money was held by the administrative entity. The interest shall be equal to that provided for under the first paragraph of Article 8 of the Interest and Indexation Act.

Notwithstanding the first and second paragraphs, Article 22 shall apply regarding procedure in cases where a member of the household turns 18 in the period for which housing benefit is paid.

Article 25

Recalculation of housing benefit.

Entitlement to housing benefit may be reviewed at any time and the amount of housing benefit may be recalculated so as to bring benefit payments into line with changes that have taken place in the personal circumstances of the applicant or other members of the household.

When final information on earnings and assets during the immediately preceding calendar year as provided for under Articles 17 and 18 is available for assessment of public levies and taxes by the tax authorities, the administrative entity shall recalculate the amounts of housing benefit in respect of that calendar year on the basis of that information.

If recalculation under the first and second paragraphs results in a change in the amount of housing benefit, then housing benefit shall be corrected as provided for in Article 26.

The Minister may issue a regulation¹⁾ setting further rules on the recalculation of housing benefit.

¹⁾ *Regulation No. 1200/2016.*

Article 26

Correction of housing benefit payments.

If applicants have received higher payments of housing benefit than they were entitled to during the period in question, they shall repay the excess amount paid. Normally, the administrative entity shall deduct excess payments of housing benefit from housing benefit payments made later to the same party over the next twelve months after the recalculation under Article 25 has been made. The administrative entity shall also have right of recourse against applicants or their estates at death in accordance with the ordinary rules. Deductions from housing benefit payments may not amount to more than 25% of housing benefit payments each month.

If it proves impossible to recover excess payments of housing benefit as provided for under the first paragraph, they shall be recovered in accordance with Article 111 of the Income Tax Act. The Minister may, however, entrust recovery to special collection agents. Excess payments of housing benefit may be set off against credit owing to applicants as a result of excess tax payments they have made, or credit owing on child benefit, in accordance with the Income Tax Act. The Minister responsible for raising state revenues shall issue a regulation setting further rules on set-offs and priority ranking.

If applicants have not received housing benefit to which they were entitled, or have received lower housing benefit payments than they were entitled to, the administrative entity shall pay them the amount underpaid, with interest for the period during which the money was held by the administrative entity. This interest shall be equivalent to the interest rates prescribed under the first paragraph of Article 8 of the Interest and Indexation Act. If housing benefit was underpaid due to a lack of information from the applicant, interest shall be waived.

Decisions made by the administrative entity on claims for the reimbursement of excess payments of housing benefit under the first paragraph shall be enforceable without a prior court judgment. The same shall apply to rulings by the Welfare Appeals Committee on claims for the reimbursement of excess payments of housing benefit.

Reimbursements of excess payments of housing benefit under this Act shall be paid to the Treasury.

The Minister may issue a regulation¹⁾ setting further rules on the collection of excess payments of benefit, exemptions from collection of excess payments of benefit and the writing-off of claims.

¹⁾ *Regulation No. 1200/2016.*

Article 27

When housing benefit is obtained fraudulently.

If it comes to light that the applicant has knowingly submitted incorrect, misleading or unsatisfactory information, or neglected to provide necessary information in order to obtain unlawful payments of housing benefit, the applicant shall reimburse the amount paid in excess, together with a 15% supplement.

CHAPTER VIII

Miscellaneous provisions.

Article 28

Provision of information to the local authorities.

The administrative entity shall provide the local authorities with information on applicants' entitlement to housing benefit under this Act and on members of the households in question after receiving authorisation from the members of the households who are aged 18 years and over.

Article 29

Housing benefit that has not fallen due for disbursement.

Housing benefit that has not fallen due for disbursement under this Act may not be assigned or pledged; nor may such disbursements be embargoed, made the objects of attachments or accepted as payment of public taxes and levies (*cf.*, however, the fourth paragraph of Article 21).

Article 30

Authorisation for the issue of regulations.

The Minister may issue regulations¹⁾ on the application of this Act in further detail, including as regards the following matters.

1. The institution he/she entrusts with the application of this Act under the first paragraph of Article 5, and procedure, including electronic access and processing (*cf.* the third paragraph of Article 5).
2. Applications for housing benefit under the third paragraph of Article 13.
3. Rules on the basic amounts of housing benefit under the second paragraph of Article 16.
4. Earnings thresholds and the reduction percentage under Article 17.
5. Asset thresholds under Article 18.
6. The calculation of housing benefit under Article 20.
7. The minimum amount under the third paragraph of Article 21.
8. Monitoring under Article 23.
9. Recalculation under Article 25.
10. Correction of housing benefit payments under Article 26.

The basic amounts of housing benefit under the second paragraph of Article 16, the earnings thresholds amounts under the first paragraph of Article 17 and the asset thresholds under the first paragraph of Article 18 shall be reviewed each year when the state budget is passed, taking account of trends in wages, price-levels and the economy. When the aforementioned conditions result in an increase in the amounts under the first sentence, the Minister shall issue a regulation amending them.

The minister responsible for the raising of state revenues shall issue a regulation setting further rules on set-offs and priority ranking under Article 26.

¹⁾ *Regulation No. 1200/2016, cf. No. 911/2017 and No. 1197/2017.*

Article 31

Commencement.

This Act shall take effect on 1 January 2017. ...

Notwithstanding the provision of the first paragraph of Article 17, the earnings threshold, taking account of all members of the household aged 18 and over, shall be ISK 2,700,000 for all those who apply for housing benefit in connection with the rental of residential premises during 2016, irrespective of the number of members of the household.

Article 32

Amendments to other statutes.

...

Interim provision.

The Minister shall, in consultation with the minister responsible for issues regarding support for mortgage interest, examine whether housing support to the holders of habitation (residence) rights in housing cooperatives shall be, partly or wholly, in accordance with this Act rather than with Section B of Article 68 of the Income Tax Act, No. 90/2003. The conclusion of this examination shall be known within one year of the date of commencement of this Act.

*[This translation is published for information only.
The original Icelandic text is published in the Law Gazette.
In case of a possible discrepancy, the original Icelandic text applies.]*