

*These notes refer to the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act
1999 (c.30) which received Royal Assent on 11 November 1999*

WELFARE REFORM AND PENSIONS ACT 1999

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY

Commentary

Part VI: General

Section 91: Short title, general interpretation and Scottish devolution

The only provision calling for specific mention here is subsection (4), which relates to Scottish devolution.

Social security is a matter wholly reserved to the Westminster Parliament. Some of the provisions in this Act, however, impinge on matters devolved to the Scottish Parliament. In particular, the provisions in relation to valuing pension arrangement benefits for calculating matrimonial property, fall within the responsibility of Scottish Ministers.

This technical amendment designates these provisions in the Act as “pre-commencement enactments” for the purpose of the Scotland Act 1998. This enables functions within the competence of Scottish Ministers to be exercised by them and allows them to commence the provisions which fall outside the social security reservation.

This provision was added to the Bill at Lords Report (13 October 1999; Hansard vol. 605, col. 504).