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Social Security

The new coalition's plans for social security - this is about to change

The new plans of the new coalition certainly bring innovations for social security - a first overview:

The pension insurance

The coalition agreement shows that the coalition government has agreed that the flexi-pension should be strengthened and that the regulations on additional earnings in case of early retirement should even be abolished.

There will be no pension cuts and no increase in the statutory retirement age, and in this legislative period the contribution rate will not rise above 20 per cent, according to the coalition's promises.

In order to stabilize the pension level and pension contribution rate in the long term, a partial capital cover of the statutory pension insurance is to be initiated. Occupational pension provision is to be strengthened, among other things, by allowing investment opportunities with higher returns.

In addition, the coalition plans to broaden the group of insured persons in the statutory pension insurance. Self-employed persons are to be insured in the statutory pension insurance unless the "opt-out" option is used.

The basic security

Instead of the previous basic income support, also known as unemployment benefit II or Hartz IV, the coalition is introducing a citizen's income, which according to the plans of the new coalition will be accessible digitally and in an uncomplicated way in the future. Legal framework conditions are to be changed in such a way "that counselling at eye level will be possible in the future and a relationship of trust can develop." Sanctions will continue to exist, but the opportunities for additional earnings are also to be improved with the aim of creating incentives for gainful employment that is subject to social security contributions.

Basic security for children

The previous financial supports are to be bundled into a simple support benefit that is calculated and paid out automatically. This will be achieved by relaunching family support. In this way, the payments are to reach the children directly in an uncomplicated way. The basic child allowance is intended to lift even more children out of poverty and give them better opportunities in life.

The health and long-term care insurance

The plans of the new coalition for health and long-term care insurance contain minor changes. For example, stable and reliable financing of the statutory health insurance (SHI) is to be ensured by regularly dynamizing the federal subsidy to the SHI. The health insurance funds are to be given the option of granting their insured persons monetary bonuses for participating in preventive measures.

In long-term care insurance, the coalition agreement provides for a "moderate increase" in the long-term care contribution rate. However, exact figures are not yet known. The long-term care allowance is also to be regularly dynamized from 2022. In addition, the tax exemption for the care bonus is to be raised to 3,000 euros.

Employment and training assistance

With regard to employment promotion, it is being considered whether self-employed persons will have easier access to voluntary unemployment insurance without a pre-insurance period and whether managing directors of a GmbH (etc.) should be entitled to unemployment benefits.

With a qualification allowance based on the short-time allowance, it should be possible for the Federal Employment Agency to support companies in structural change in such a way that employees can be kept in the company through qualification measures and skilled workers can be retained.

Beneficiaries under SGB II and SGB III should be able to receive an additional monthly further training allowance of 150 euros for vocational qualification measures.

Digitalization in the health sector

The coalition agreement provides for the services of the social insurance institutions to be comprehensively digitalized. Information, counselling, application as well as communication and queries with the competent bodies are to be possible digitally and easily while maintaining data protection. Digital procedures should also improve the quality of analogue consultations. In addition, telemedical services, as introduced at the beginning of the corona pandemic, should also be possible in the future. This refers to services such as prescriptions for medicines, remedies and aids as well as video consultations, telemonitoring and tele-emergency medical care.

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