

HOUSE No. 453

By Mr. McCarthy of Chelsea, petition of Edward A. McCarthy for legislation to regulate further the granting of adequate assistance to certain aged persons. Pensions.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-One.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE GRANTING OF ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN AGED CITIZENS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter one hundred and eighteen A of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out section one,
3 as amended, and inserting in place thereof the fol-
4 lowing:—

5 *Section 1.* Adequate assistance to deserving citizens
6 in need of relief and support fifty-five years of age or
7 over who shall have resided in the commonwealth not
8 less than five years during the nine years immediately
9 preceding the date of application for such assistance
10 and who shall have resided in the commonwealth
11 continuously for one year immediately preceding said
12 date of application, shall be granted under the super-
13 vision of the department of public welfare, in this
14 chapter called the department. Financial assistance
15 granted hereunder shall be given from the date of
16 application therefor, but in no event before the ap-

17 plicant reaches the age of fifty-five, and in determin-
18 ing the amount of assistance to be given for any pe-
19 riod preceding the date on which the application was
20 favorably passed upon, consideration shall be given to
21 the amount of welfare relief, if any, given to such
22 applicant during said period under any other provision
23 of law. Such assistance shall, wherever practicable, be
24 given to the aged person in his own home or in lodg-
25 ings or in a boarding home, which for the purposes
26 hereof shall include any institution providing shelter,
27 care and treatment for aged persons which is not
28 supported in whole or in part by public funds; pro-
29 vided, that no inmate of such a boarding home or
30 institution shall be eligible for assistance under this
31 chapter while being cared for under a contract; and
32 provided, further, that for the purposes of this chapter
33 any person who, while such an inmate, has lost or
34 shall lose his settlement at the time of admission to
35 such home or institution shall be deemed to have no
36 settlement in the commonwealth. Such assistance
37 shall be paid by check or in cash, which shall be de-
38 livered to the applicant at his residence if he so
39 requests, shall be paid semi-monthly unless the
40 applicant prefers less frequent payment, and shall,
41 except as hereinafter provided, be at the rate of not
42 less than forty dollars monthly for each recipient, or,
43 in case of a husband and wife living together, both of
44 whom are eligible for such assistance, not less than
45 seventy-five dollars monthly for both, or in case of
46 sisters or brothers or sisters and brothers living
47 together, all of whom are so eligible, not less than
48 sixty dollars monthly for two, and not less than fifteen
49 dollars monthly for each additional brother or sister
50 so eligible.