

# HOUSE . . . . No. 535

---

---

By Mr. Lindstrom of Cambridge, petition of James E. Finnegan and another relative to the furnishing of adequate assistance to certain aged citizens of the Commonwealth. Pensions and Old Age Assistance.

---

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

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

---

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO 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 118A of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out from the first line of section 1,  
3 as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 729  
4 of the acts of 1941, the word "citizens" and sub-  
5 stituting therefor the word:— residents, — so that  
6 said section will read:— *Section 1. State Depart-*  
7 *ment of Public Welfare to supervise Rendering of*  
8 *Assistance.*— Adequate assistance to deserving resi-  
9 dents in need of relief and support sixty-five years of  
10 age or over who shall have resided in the common-  
11 wealth not less than three years during the nine years  
12 immediately preceding the date of application for  
13 such assistance and who shall have resided in the  
14 commonwealth continuously for one year immediately

15 preceding said date of application, shall be granted  
16 under the supervision of the department of public  
17 welfare, in this chapter called the department. Finan-  
18 cial assistance granted hereunder shall be given from  
19 the date of application therefor, but in no event before  
20 the applicant reaches the age of sixty-five, and in  
21 determining the amount of assistance to be given  
22 for any period preceding the date on which the ap-  
23 plication was favorably passed upon, consideration  
24 shall be given to the amount of welfare relief, if any,  
25 given to such applicant during said period under any  
26 other provision of law. Such assistance shall, wherever  
27 practicable, be given to the aged person in his own  
28 home or in lodgings or in a boarding home, which for  
29 the purposes hereof shall include any institution pro-  
30 viding shelter, care and treatment for aged persons  
31 which is not supported in whole or in part by public  
32 funds; provided, that no inmate of such a boarding  
33 home or institution shall be eligible for assistance  
34 under this chapter while being cared for under a  
35 contract; and provided, further, that for the pur-  
36 poses of this chapter any person who, while such an  
37 inmate, has lost his settlement or who shall lose his  
38 settlement at the time of admission to such home or  
39 institution shall be deemed to have no settlement  
40 in the commonwealth. Such assistance shall be paid  
41 by check or in cash, which shall be delivered to the  
42 applicant at his residence, if he so requests, and shall  
43 be paid semi-monthly unless the applicant prefers  
44 less frequent payments. Such assistance, except as  
45 hereinafter provided, shall be at the following rates:  
46 In the case of an individual living within a family  
47 group, not less than thirty dollars monthly; in the  
48 case of an individual living outside a family group,

49 not less than forty dollars monthly; in the case of a  
50 husband and wife living together within a family  
51 group, both of whom are eligible for such assistance,  
52 not less than fifty dollars monthly for both; in the  
53 case of a husband and wife living together outside a  
54 family group, both of whom are so eligible, not less  
55 than sixty-five dollars monthly for both; in the case  
56 of sisters or brothers or sisters and brothers living  
57 together within a family group, all of whom are so  
58 eligible, not less than fifty dollars monthly for two  
59 and not less than fifteen dollars monthly for each  
60 additional brother or sister so eligible; or in the case  
61 of sisters or brothers or sisters and brothers living  
62 together outside a family group, all of whom are so  
63 eligible, not less than sixty-five dollars monthly for  
64 two and not less than fifteen dollars monthly for each  
65 additional brother or sister so eligible. The deter-  
66 mination as to what constitutes a family group under  
67 the provisions of this section shall be made in ac-  
68 cordance with rules and regulations established by  
69 the department, authority to establish the same being  
70 hereby granted. In computing the aforesaid minima  
71 the local board of public welfare, or the department  
72 acting on cases appealed, as the case may be, shall,  
73 in accordance with rules and regulations made by  
74 the department, deduct therefrom the amount of  
75 income the person assisted or to be assisted may be  
76 receiving from any source whatsoever, and may  
77 deduct therefrom such reasonable amount as may  
78 be deemed to represent the financial value of board,  
79 lodging or other assistance which is being furnished  
80 to such person from any source whatever.

