

HOUSE No. 2377

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 8, 1954.

The committee on Pensions and Old Age Assistance, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 681) of Belden G. Bly, Jr., relative to the amounts to be paid for funeral and burial expenses for recipients of old age assistance, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 841) of Michael Paul Feeney relative to the payment of funeral and burial expenses of certain old age assistance recipients, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1522) of the Massachusetts Society for Old Age Pensions that provision be made for payment by cities and towns of expenses of funerals and burials of recipients of old age assistance, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2377).

For the committee,

WILLIAM F. NOURSE.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE AMOUNTS TO BE PAID FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL EXPENSES FOR RECIPIENTS OF OLD AGE ASSISTANCE.

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

1 Section 1 of chapter 118A of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting before the last para-
3 graph the following paragraph: —
4 Such assistance shall also provide for the funeral
5 and burial expenses of every person who dies while
6 receiving assistance under this chapter. In case of
7 the decease of such a person the local board of public
8 welfare shall pay for said funeral and burial a sum
9 not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars; pro-
10 vided, that the funeral director engaged in conducting
11 the funeral and burial of said deceased person shall
12 perform the services and furnish the materials in con-
13 nection therewith as follows: — removal of body; pro-
14 curing of death certificate and burial permit; embalm-
15 ing and dressing of body; furnishing suitable burial
16 garment; furnishing suitable casket, bearing metal
17 plate with name of deceased engraved thereon; fur-
18 nishing outer case of pine wood or liner; furnishing
19 hearse for transporting body of the deceased to a
20 cemetery within a distance of ten miles; furnishing
21 conveyance for transporting to such cemetery the im-
22 mediate family of the deceased; and procuring of a
23 clergyman, of the religion that the deceased professed,
24 to officiate at the funeral. In such a case, the local
25 board of public welfare shall also pay to the funeral
26 director such additional sum, if any, not exceeding
27 fifty dollars, for opening the grave, obtaining the use

28 of interment devices and transporting the body of the
29 deceased to a cemetery beyond a distance of ten miles.
30 In no event shall the total cost for funeral and burial
31 expenses of a person who dies while receiving assist-
32 ance under this chapter exceed three hundred dollars,
33 whether paid in whole or in part from the assets of
34 the estate of the deceased person.

26. The first of these is the fact that the body of the
 27. animal is a continuous surface, and the surface of the body
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