

HOUSE No. 925

By Mr. Conley of Lawrence, petition of the Mass. State CIO Industrial Union Council that provisions be made for additional relief for injured workers and their dependents under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Labor and Industries.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR CERTAIN INJURED WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

1 *Whereas*, It is recognized that the cost of the neces-
2 saries of life has increased greatly in the past several
3 years; and

4 *Whereas*, Many citizens of the commonwealth who
5 receive weekly benefits under the workmen's com-
6 pensation act are unable to maintain health and
7 decency on the benefits allowable under the work-
8 men's compensation act, as of the date their personal
9 injuries occurred; and

10 *Whereas*, This condition creates a grave danger to
11 the public health and safety of all the inhabitants of
12 the commonwealth; therefore, acting under the police
13 power and other powers of this commonwealth, it is
14 hereby declared that an emergency exists.

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 152 of the General Laws, as amended, is
2 hereby further amended by striking out section 2A,

3 inserted by chapter 386 of the acts of 1946, and
4 inserting in section 37 the following additional para-
5 graph at the end thereof: —

6 The weekly compensation benefits provided by
7 every act in amendment of sections thirty-one, thirty-
8 four, thirty-four A, thirty-five and thirty-five A of
9 this chapter shall apply not only in cases of personal
10 injuries occurring on or after its effective date, but
11 also shall apply, but only as to payments made after
12 its effective date, in cases of personal injuries occurring
13 before its effective date where the injured employee or
14 his dependents are receiving weekly compensation on
15 said effective date, or shall receive weekly compen-
16 sation at any time thereafter whether under an
17 agreement approved by the department, or under a
18 decision of a member of the department or of the re-
19 viewing board, or under a decree of the superior court
20 or of the supreme judicial court, notwithstanding any
21 provisions of any other section of the workmen's
22 compensation act, as amended. The insurer shall be
23 reimbursed by the state treasurer from the fund
24 established by section sixty-five or any payments
25 made hereunder in excess of the amounts payable
26 under the said sections in effect on the date the injured
27 or deceased employee sustained his personal injury.