

# HOUSE . . . . No. 442

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By Mr. Whalen of Brockton, petition of John J. Whalen and Joseph La Fontaine for an amendment of the law providing adequate assistance for certain aged citizens. Pensions.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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An Act to provide for Adequate Assistance to Certain Aged Citizens and for a Report by the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation as to Ways and Means for raising the Required Revenue.

*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. Section one of chapter one hundred  
2 and eighteen A of the General Laws, inserted by  
3 chapter four hundred and two of the acts of nineteen  
4 hundred and thirty, is hereby amended by striking  
5 out in the second line the word "seventy" and in-  
6 serting in place thereof the word: — sixty-five, — so  
7 as to read as follows: — *Section 1.* Adequate assist-  
8 ance to deserving citizens in need of relief and sup-  
9 port sixty-five years of age or over who shall have  
10 resided in the commonwealth not less than twenty  
11 years immediately preceding arrival at such age,  
12 subject to such reasonable exceptions as to continu-

13 ity of residence as the department of public welfare,  
14 in this chapter called the department, may deter-  
15 mine by rules hereinafter authorized, shall be granted  
16 under the supervision of the department. Such as-  
17 sistance shall, whenever practicable, be given to the  
18 aged person in his own home or in lodgings or in  
19 a boarding home, and it shall be sufficient to provide  
20 such suitable and dignified care. No person receiv-  
21 ing assistance hereunder shall be deemed to be a  
22 pauper by reason thereof.

1 SECTION 2. Section two of chapter one hundred  
2 and eighteen A of the General Laws, inserted by  
3 chapter four hundred and two of the acts of nineteen  
4 hundred and thirty, is hereby amended by striking  
5 out said section and inserting in place thereof the  
6 following: —

7 *Section 2.* Each board of public welfare shall, for  
8 the purpose of granting adequate assistance and  
9 service to such aided persons, establish a division  
10 thereof to be designated as the Bureau of Old Age  
11 Assistance. In determining the need for financial  
12 assistance, said bureau shall give consideration to  
13 the resources of the aged person and to the ability  
14 of children to support such aged person. Separate  
15 records of all such aged persons who are aided shall  
16 be kept and reports returned in the manner pre-  
17 scribed by section thirty-four of chapter forty-one  
18 and by sections thirty-two and thirty-three of chap-  
19 ter one hundred and seventeen.

20 *Section 3.* In respect to all aged persons in re-  
21 ceipt of assistance under this chapter, the town ren-  
22 dering the assistance shall, after and subject to ap-  
23 proval of the bills by the department and subject

24 otherwise to the provisions of section forty-two of  
25 chapter one hundred and twenty-one, be reimbursed  
26 by the commonwealth for one third of the amount  
27 of assistance given, or if the person so aided has no  
28 settlement in the commonwealth, for the total  
29 amount thereof. If the person so aided has a legal  
30 settlement in another town, two thirds of the  
31 amount of such assistance given may be recovered  
32 in contract against the town liable therefor in ac-  
33 cordance with chapter one hundred and seventeen.

34 *Section 4.* The department shall supervise the  
35 work done and measures taken by the boards of  
36 public welfare of the several towns in respect to  
37 persons aided and service given under this chapter;  
38 and for this purpose may make such rules relative to  
39 notice and reimbursement, and such other rules relat-  
40 ing to the administration of this chapter, as it deems  
41 necessary and may visit any person aided, and shall  
42 have access to any records and other data kept by the  
43 boards of public welfare of their representatives relat-  
44 ing to such assistance, and may require the production  
45 of books and papers and the testimony of witnesses  
46 under oath.

1 SECTION 3. The commissioner of corporations  
2 and taxation is hereby directed to consider ways and  
3 means for raising the revenue required by the com-  
4 monwealth and by the cities and towns thereof to  
5 carry out the terms of this act from sources which,  
6 so far as may be, will not constitute an additional  
7 burden on real estate, and shall especially consider  
8 some form of taxation on amusements, proprietary  
9 articles and luxuries, and shall report to the general  
10 court his findings and recommendations, together

11 with drafts of legislation necessary to carry his  
12 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with  
13 the clerk of the house of representatives not later  
14 than the first Wednesday in December of the cur-  
15 rent year.

1 SECTION 4. Section one of this act shall not be-  
2 come operative until July first, nineteen hundred  
3 and thirty-one.