

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1044

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By Mr. Edward J. Kelley of Worcester, petition of Wendell P. Thore for amendment of the law relative to furnishing adequate assistance to certain aged persons. Pensions.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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An Act providing for Adequate Pensions 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. The General Laws are hereby amended  
2 by inserting after chapter thirty-two, under the title,  
3 Adequate Pensions to Certain Aged Citizens, the fol-  
4 lowing new chapter:—

5 CHAPTER 32A.

6 ADEQUATE PENSIONS TO CERTAIN AGED CITIZENS.

7 *Section 1.* Adequate pensions to deserving citi-  
8 zens in need of relief and support sixty years of age or  
9 over who shall have resided in the commonwealth not  
10 less than twenty years immediately preceding arrival  
11 at such age, subject to such reasonable exceptions as to  
12 continuity of residence as the state board of retirement,  
13 in this chapter called the department, may determine

14 by rules hereinafter authorized, shall be granted under  
15 the supervision of the department. Such pension  
16 shall, wherever practicable, be given to the aged person  
17 in his own home or in lodgings or in a boarding home,  
18 and it shall be sufficient to provide such suitable and  
19 dignified care. No person receiving a pension here-  
20 under shall be deemed to be a pauper by reason  
21 thereof.

22 *Section 2.* The state board of retirement shall,  
23 for the purpose of granting adequate pensions and  
24 service to such aged persons, establish a division  
25 thereof to be designated as the bureau of old age pen-  
26 sions. In determining the need for a pension said  
27 bureaus shall give consideration to the resources of the  
28 aged person, but shall not include any property used  
29 by the pensioner as a home.

30 *Section 3.* In respect to all aged persons in receipt  
31 of pension under this chapter, the town rendering the  
32 pension shall, after and subject to approval of the bills  
33 by the department and subject otherwise to the pro-  
34 visions of section forty-two of chapter one hundred and  
35 twenty-one, be reimbursed by the commonwealth for  
36 one third of the amount of pension given, or, if the  
37 person so aided has no settlement in the common-  
38 wealth, for the total amount thereof. If the person so  
39 aided has a legal settlement in another town, two thirds  
40 of the amount of such pension given may be recovered  
41 in contract against the town liable therefor in accord-  
42 ance with chapter one hundred and seventeen.

43 *Section 4.* The department shall supervise the  
44 work done and measures taken by its representatives  
45 in the several towns in respect to persons aided and  
46 service given under this chapter; and for this purpose  
47 may make such rules relative to notice and reimburse-

48 ment, and such other rules relating to the administra-  
49 tion of this chapter, as it deems necessary, and may  
50 visit any person aided, and shall have access to any  
51 records and other data kept in the several towns relat-  
52 ing to such pension and may require the production of  
53 books and papers and the testimony of witnesses under  
54 oath.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter one hundred and eighteen A  
2 of the General Laws, inserted by section one of chapter  
3 four hundred and two of the acts of nineteen hundred  
4 and thirty, is hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 3. The commissioner of corporations and  
2 taxation is hereby directed to consider ways and means  
3 for raising the revenue required by the commonwealth  
4 and by the cities and towns thereof to carry out the  
5 terms of this act from sources which, so far as may be,  
6 will not constitute an additional burden on real estate,  
7 and shall especially consider some form of taxation on  
8 inheritances, stocks and bonds, intangibles, amuse-  
9 ments, and shall report to the general court findings  
10 and recommendations, together with drafts of legisla-  
11 tion necessary to carry his recommendations into  
12 effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the house of  
13 representatives not later than May first of the cur-  
14 rent year.

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

1 SECTION 5. The Public Bequest Fund, chapter  
2 three hundred and eighty-three of the General Laws,  
3 shall be made part of this act.

