

HOUSE No. 380

By Mr. Halliwell of New Bedford, petition of John Halliwell relative to eligibility of aged persons for public assistance in respect to aid furnished by children. Pensions.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the Eligibility of Applicants for Old Age Assistance, So Called.

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 one of chapter one hundred and eighteen A
2 of the General Laws, as appearing in section one of
3 chapter four hundred and thirty-six of the acts of
4 nineteen hundred and thirty-six, is hereby amended
5 by striking out, in the forty-seventh and forty-eighth
6 line, the words “, or should be furnished to him by his
7 children”, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 1.*
8 Adequate assistance to deserving citizens in need of
9 relief and support sixty-five years of age or over who
10 shall have resided in the commonwealth not less than
11 five years during the nine years immediately preceding
12 the date of application for such assistance and who
13 shall have resided in the commonwealth continuously
14 for one year immediately preceding said date of appli-
15 cation, shall be granted under the supervision of the

16 department of public welfare, in this chapter called the
17 department. Financial assistance granted hereunder
18 shall be given from the date of application therefor,
19 but in no event before the applicant reaches the age of
20 sixty-five, and in determining the amount of assistance
21 to be given for any period preceding the date on which
22 the application was favorably passed upon, consider-
23 ation shall be given to the amount of welfare relief,
24 if any, given to such applicant during said period under
25 any other provision of law. Such assistance shall,
26 wherever practicable, be given to the aged person in
27 his own home or in lodgings or in a boarding home,
28 which for the purposes hereof shall include any insti-
29 tution providing shelter, care and treatment for aged
30 persons which is not supported in whole or in part by
31 public funds; provided, that no inmate of such a
32 boarding home or institution shall be eligible for assist-
33 ance under this chapter while being cared for under a
34 contract; and provided, further, that for the purposes
35 of this chapter any person who, while such an inmate,
36 has lost or shall lose his settlement at the time of
37 admission to such home or institution shall be deemed
38 to have no settlement in the commonwealth. Such
39 assistance shall be paid by check or in cash, which shall
40 be delivered to the applicant at his residence if he so
41 requests, and shall, except as hereinafter provided, be
42 at a rate of not less than thirty dollars monthly for each
43 recipient, or, in case of a husband and wife living to-
44 gether, both of whom are eligible for such assistance,
45 not less than fifty dollars monthly for both, or, in case
46 of sisters or brothers or sisters and brothers living
47 together, all of whom are so eligible, not less than forty-
48 five dollars monthly for two, and not less than fifteen
49 dollars monthly for each additional brother or sister

50 so eligible. In computing the above minima the local
51 board of public welfare, or the appeal board herein-
52 after provided for, as the case may be, shall deduct
53 therefrom the amount of income the person assisted
54 or to be assisted may be receiving from any source
55 whatsoever, and may deduct therefrom such reasonable
56 amount as may be deemed to represent the financial
57 value of board, lodging or other assistance which is
58 being furnished to such person from any source what-
59 ever. No person receiving assistance hereunder shall
60 be deemed to be a pauper by reason thereof.

