

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1854

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 1, 1945.

The committee on Public Welfare, to whom was referred the special report of the Department of Public Welfare (under chapter 23 of the Resolves of 1943) relative to amounts payable by the Commonwealth for the expenses of the funeral of certain poor persons (House, No. 3), report the accompanying bill (House, No. 1854).

For the committee,

JOHN GEORGE ASIAP.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Five.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT BY CITIES AND TOWNS OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS FOR EXPENSES OF THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL OF CERTAIN POOR AND INDIGENT PERSONS AND FOR STATE REIMBURSEMENT THEREFOR IN UNSETTLED CASES.

*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 eighteen A of chapter one  
2 hundred and seventeen of the General Laws, inserted  
3 by chapter four hundred and sixty-five of the acts of  
4 nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, is hereby amended  
5 by adding at the end the following new paragraph: —  
6 In such a case, the town shall also pay to the funeral  
7 director such additional sum, if any, not exceeding  
8 fifty dollars, as may be expended for procuring a burial  
9 place for the body of the deceased, opening the grave,  
10 obtaining the use of interment devices and transport-  
11 ing the body of the deceased to a cemetery beyond a  
12 distance of ten miles.

1 SECTION 2. Section seventeen of said chapter one  
2 hundred and seventeen, as most recently amended  
3 by section eight of chapter three hundred and fifty-  
4 one of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-one,

5 is hereby further amended by striking out the last  
6 sentence and inserting in place thereof the following:—  
7 The expense thereof may be recovered of their kin-  
8 dred, if any, chargeable by law for their support in the  
9 manner provided in this chapter; and if the expense  
10 of their funeral and burial is not paid by such kindred,  
11 an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars for the  
12 funeral expenses of each person over twelve years of  
13 age, together with such additional amount, if any,  
14 not exceeding fifty dollars, as may be paid by the town  
15 as provided in the second paragraph of section eigh-  
16 teen A, and not exceeding forty dollars for the funeral  
17 and burial expenses of each person under that age,  
18 shall be paid by the commonwealth, subject to the  
19 provisions of section forty-two of chapter one hundred  
20 and twenty-one; provided, that the board of public  
21 welfare shall file with each claim an affidavit of the  
22 funeral director stating the total amount of his bill,  
23 the amount received from the town and the amount  
24 received from all other sources; and provided, fur-  
25 ther, that if the total expense of the funeral and burial,  
26 by whomsoever incurred, shall exceed the sum of one  
27 hundred dollars or one hundred and fifty dollars, as  
28 the case may be, no payment therefor shall be made  
29 by the commonwealth.

