

HOUSE No. 1584

Bill accompanying the petition of Charles H. Morrill that the element of charity be removed from the operation of the law relative to aiding mothers with dependent children. Social Welfare. January 21.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixteen.

AN ACT

To provide for the Support of Neglected and Dependent Children.

Bē 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. If the parent or parents of a dependent
2 or neglected child are poor and unable to properly care
3 for the said child, but are otherwise proper guardians,
4 and it is for the welfare of such child to remain at home,
5 the juvenile court, the probate court or, except in Boston,
6 any police, municipal or district court, may enter an
7 order finding such facts and fixing the amount of money
8 necessary to enable the parent or parents to properly
9 care for such child, and thereupon it shall be the duty
10 of the county commissioners, or in Suffolk county the
11 city council of Boston, to pay to such parent or parents

12 at such times and as such order may designate, the money
13 so specified for the care of such dependent or neglected
14 child until the further order of the court, and such
15 mothers and their children shall not be deemed paupers
16 by reason of receiving aid as aforesaid.

1 SECTION 2. In respect to all mothers in receipt of aid
2 hereunder the county rendering the aid shall be reim-
3 bursed by the commonwealth, after approval of the bills
4 by the governor and council, for one third of the amount
5 of the aid given. If the mother so aided has no settle-
6 ment, the county shall be reimbursed for the total
7 amount of the aid given, after approval of the bills by
8 the governor and council as aforesaid. If the mother so
9 aided has a lawful settlement in a city or town located in
10 another county two thirds of the amount of such aid
11 given may be recovered in an action of contract against
12 the county wherein the city or town liable therefor in
13 accordance with the provisions of chapter eighty-one of
14 the Revised Laws and acts in amendment thereof and in
15 addition thereto is located.

1 SECTION 3. For the purpose of reimbursing the
2 counties, as provided in the foregoing section, there shall
3 be appropriated from the treasury of the commonwealth
4 the sum of two hundred thousand dollars for the oper-
5 ations of the year nineteen hundred and sixteen.

1 SECTION 4. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
2 herewith are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect on the first day
2 of September, nineteen hundred and sixteen.