

HOUSE . . . . . No. 110

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE,  
600 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON 11, October 27, 1964.

HONORABLE KEVIN H. WHITE, *Secretary of the Commonwealth*, State House,  
Boston, Massachusetts, 02133.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY:— In accordance with the provisions of chapter 30, section 33, as amended, we are transmitting the enclosed bills and recommendations for legislative action.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT F. OTT,  
*Commissioner.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

## 1. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

This bill is filed to permit the department to comply with its statutory responsibilities under chapters 118, 118A, and 118D in relation to the Federal Social Security Act and the requirements of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The department has statutory responsibility for the supervision of the administration of the granting of assistance under these statutes and the responsibility for promulgating necessary standards to keep the state plan in conformity with the requirements governing the grants of Federal aid.

## 2. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF ASSETS BY APPLICANTS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE AGED.

This bill is filed in order to bring the requirements of the Medical Assistance for the Aged Law into conformity with the requirements for Old Age Assistance. We have found in a number of instances that individuals have transferred assets immediately prior to undergoing extensive costly medical care.

## 3. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE EXEMPTION OF EARNED INCOME BY RECIPIENTS OF OLD AGE ASSISTANCE.

This bill is filed to permit the department in carrying out its responsibility under the Old Age Assistance Law to conform with recent liberalizations provided for in the Federal Social Security Act. The Federal Act now permits an aged recipient who is employed to retain a portion of his earnings without an equal reduction in his assistance payments. We feel the enactment of this amendment will provide an additional incentive to many aged recipients who possibly could obtain part-time employment. Each year a larger number of our aged population is finding that job opportunities are more available than previously.

It is difficult to measure the psychological and therapeutic effect on our aged population of being able to work and make a contribution to the well being of the community. Under the law as it stands,

we are required to consider every penny of the earned income as an available resource to the recipient.

#### 4. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE GRANTING OF GENERAL RELIEF.

The department filed this bill in order to remove some antiquated sections and to clarify the meaning of others. In 1963, the Legislature enacted a bill which removed settlement as the basis for determining local financial responsibility under this chapter. At that time, the concentration was merely on removing the concept of settlement. As a result, there are a number of ambiguities and inconsistencies which this legislation attempts to remove without changing the substance of the chapter.

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