

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, petition of Angelo M. Scaccia relative to reimbursements for the elderly food program. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

AN ACT GUARANTEEING REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE ELDERLY FOOD PROGRAM.

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 one L of chapter fifteen, as inserted by
2 section ten of chapter eleven hundred and sixty-eight of the acts of
3 nineteen hundred and seventy-three is hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 19A of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in chapter 1168 of the acts of 1973, is hereby amended by inserting
3 after section 12 the following section: —

4 *Section 12A.* There shall be in the department a state meals
5 program for elders. Such meals may be provided by public or
6 private non-profit agencies in accordance with the rules and
7 regulations of the department. Public and private schools in any
8 city or town so designated may also participate.

9 In the case of meals provided to elders by public schools, the
10 school committee of any city and town designated by the secretary
11 may extend the school meals period for the purpose of serving
12 meals to authorized elders. Such school committees may contract
13 with the department for reimbursement for the costs of meals
14 provided to said elders in excess of the fee paid for such meals.
15 Where meals are provided in public schools, the department of
16 education shall cooperate in the operation of said programs. Meals
17 provided pursuant to this section shall be subject to the following
18 conditions: —

19 1. The charge to each person for each meal shall not exceed fifty
20 cents.

21 2. Meals served shall meet the nutritional requirements estab-
22 lished by the department of elder affairs.

23 3. The procedures for providing meals, ancillary services, and
24 collecting fees shall be approved by the department of elder affairs.

25 "Authorized elderly persons" shall mean persons sixty years of
26 age and older and their spouses whose participation has been
27 approved by the department.

28 The commonwealth may, subject to appropriation, reimburse
29 any city or town, public school, private school or non-profit public
30 or private agency for such costs, excluding any costs for
31 equipment, as are incurred in excess of fifty cents for each such
32 meal prepared and served, upon written request by such city or
33 town, public school, private school or nonprofit public or private
34 agency to the secretary of elder affairs on such form as he may
35 prescribe. If the secretary approves such request, he shall certify to
36 the comptroller that such payments are due and the state treasurer
37 shall pay the same. However, at no time, shall the reimbursement
38 portion exceed \$1.00 per meal.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter 19A of the General Laws is hereby
2 further amended by inserting after section 30 the following
3 section:—

4 *Section 30A.* The powers and duties exercised and performed by
5 the department of education related to the school lunch program
6 for elderly persons pursuant to section 10 of chapter 1168 of the
7 acts of 1973, shall continue and said reimbursements will not
8 exceed \$.50 for the meal to be paid by the elder and the
9 reimbursement shall not exceed \$1.00 per meal.