

HOUSE No. 982

Bill accompanying the petition of James P. Donnelly for the establishment of a system of non-contributory old-age pensions. Social Welfare. January 21.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty.

AN ACT

To provide for the Establishment and Maintenance of an
Old-age Pension System.

*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. The commonwealth shall establish and
2 maintain a system of non-contributory old age pensions,
3 for all deserving citizens, women and men, over seventy
4 years of age, and who have been residents of the com-
5 monwealth for at least ten years, and whose annual
6 income, from any source, does not exceed two hundred
7 dollars.

1 SECTION 2. For the purposes of this act a person
2 shall be deemed to have attained the age of seventy on
3 the commencement of the day previous to the seventieth

4 anniversary of the day of her or his birth. The pension
5 for each pensioner shall be sixty-five dollars a year, to be
6 paid each week.

1 SECTION 3. The receipt of a pension under this act
2 shall not deprive the pensioner of any franchise, right or
3 privilege, or subject such pensioner to any disability.

1 SECTION 4. A person shall be disqualified from re-
2 ceiving or continuing to receive an old-age pension under
3 this act, notwithstanding the fulfilment of other condi-
4 tions of this act:—

5 (a) While he is in receipt of any poor relief other than
6 relief excepted by authority which is to administer this
7 act; or

8 (b) If, before he becomes entitled to a pension, he has
9 habitually failed to work according to his ability, oppor-
10 tunity and need, for the maintenance or benefit of him-
11 self and those legally dependent upon him;

12 (c) While he is detained in any asylum, or while he is
13 being maintained in any place as a pauper or criminal
14 lunatic.

1 SECTION 5. The authority which is to administer this
2 act shall provide disqualifications for those who have
3 been convicted for any offence, before or after becoming
4 a pensioner; shall prescribe such rules and regulations
5 and other disqualifications; shall prescribe such oaths
6 and employ such assistance as required; shall provide
7 a method or plan by which to determine or calculate the
8 annual income or means of a person and name the amount
9 of property each person can hold, directly or indirectly,
10 and receive a pension under this act; shall also provide
11 protection against false representation and penalty for it;

12 shall divide the yearly amount of pension into weekly
13 payments, and publish dates and places where payments
14 can be received by pensioners or those legally entitled to
15 collect them.

1 SECTION 6. In the case of a married couple living
2 together, each shall receive a pension as individual
3 pensioners.

1 SECTION 7. The authority which is to administer this
2 act, shall make detailed announcements as to methods of
3 payment, and date on which such payments begin, and
4 divide the amount of pension allowed under this act into
5 the amounts to be paid each week.

1 SECTION 8. The moneys required for the provisions of
2 this act shall be procured by the commonwealth by taxing
3 the property within the commonwealth known as in-
4 tangible personalty, described in House 2290 of the year
5 nineteen hundred and thirteen. If the taxes from such
6 property are not sufficient the general court shall provide
7 the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
8 act.

1 SECTION 9. This act shall take effect in one year
2 from the date of its passage, and the authority which is to
3 administer this act shall be ready to receive applications
4 for pensions, and to pay to any pensioner qualifying
5 under this act a pension when due her or him.

1 SECTION 10. All pensions under this act shall be in-
2 alienable and shall not be subject to any agreement,
3 charge, sale, execution or other demand, and on the
4 bankruptcy of a pensioner the pension shall not pass to
5 any trustee or other person acting on behalf of creditors.

1 SECTION 11. The authority who is to administer this
2 act shall be the insurance commissioner of the common-
3 wealth, and this authority shall from time to time as is
4 required, make recommendations to the general court for
5 the further carrying out of the provisions of this act.

PART II. — OLD-AGE PENSION FUND.

1 (1) The commonwealth shall establish an old-age pen-
2 sion fund to be open forever, to receive contributions,
3 gifts, escheats, unclaimed savings, bequests and any
4 other form of property or money to be used for the pur-
5 poses of this act.

6 (2) The treasurer of the commonwealth shall be the
7 custodian of any property or moneys received under
8 this act, subject to the direction of the central pension
9 authority as directed by the rules and regulations to
10 be made for such purposes under section eleven of this
11 act.

12 (3) In order to have it known that this fund has been
13 established the authority shall, from time to time, each
14 year, advertise it in a fitting manner in some of the
15 various newspapers in the commonwealth.