

By Mr. Adlow of Boston (by request), petition of James E. Caulfield for an amendment of the law relative to the duties of overseers of the poor. Social Welfare. Jan. 17, 1924.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Four.

An Act relative to Certain Duties of Overseers of the Poor.

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 three of chapter one hundred and eighteen of
2 the General Laws is herewith amended by adding at
3 the end of the second sentence of said section the fol-
4 lowing:—provided, however, that the amount of aid
5 which would otherwise be furnished by the overseers
6 shall not be decreased because of any aid received from
7 charitable organizations, societies or agencies which does
8 not exceed one dollar weekly per individual member of
9 the family,—so as to cause said section to read as
10 follows:—*Section 3.* Before so aiding any such mother,
11 except as hereinafter provided, the overseers shall deter-
12 mine that the mother is fit to bring up her children and
13 that the other members of the household and the sur-
14 roundings of the home are such as to make for good
15 character, and that aid from the overseers is necessary
16 to enable her to bring up her children properly. For
17 this purpose they shall make an immediate and careful
18 inquiry including the resources of the family and the
19 ability of its other members, if any, to work or other-
20 wise contribute to its support, the existence of relatives

21 able to assist the family, and of individuals, societies or
22 agencies who may be interested therein; shall take all
23 lawful means to compel all persons bound to support
24 the mother and children to support them, and to en-
25 force any other legal rights for their benefit; shall press
26 all members of the family who are able to work, other
27 than the mother and her dependent children, to secure
28 work; shall try to secure work for them; and shall
29 secure all necessary aid for the mother and children
30 which can be secured from relatives, organizations or
31 individuals; provided, however, that the amount of aid
32 which would otherwise be furnished by the overseers
33 shall not be decreased because of any aid received from
34 charitable organizations, societies or agencies which does
35 not exceed one dollar weekly per individual member of
36 the family. This section shall not prevent the over-
37 seers from giving prompt and suitable temporary aid,
38 pending compliance with the requirements of this sec-
39 tion, when in their opinion such aid is necessary and
40 cannot be obtained from other sources. A detailed
41 statement of expenses incurred under this section shall
42 be rendered to the department of public welfare, to-
43 gether with such certificates or other guarantees as it
44 may require.

