

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1259

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By Mr. Downey of Brockton, petition of Joseph H. Downey and other members of the House for certain amendments of the law providing for furnishing adequate assistance to certain aged persons. Pensions and Municipal Finance (sitting jointly).

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

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### AN ACT AMENDING THE LAW RELATIVE TO ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN AGED CITIZENS.

*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. Chapter one hundred and eighteen A  
2 of the General Laws, inserted by section one of chap-  
3 ter four hundred and two of the acts of nineteen hun-  
4 dred and thirty, is hereby amended by striking out  
5 section one and inserting in place thereof the follow-  
6 ing:—

7 *Section 1.* Adequate assistance to deserving citi-  
8 zens in need of relief and support sixty years of age or  
9 over who shall have resided in the commonwealth not  
10 less than twenty years immediately preceding arrival  
11 at such age, subject to such reasonable exceptions as  
12 to continuity of residence as the department of public  
13 welfare, in this chapter called the department, may  
14 determine by rules hereinafter authorized, shall be  
15 granted under the supervision of the department.

16 Such assistance shall, wherever practicable, be given  
17 to the aged person in his own home or in lodging or in  
18 a boarding home, and it shall be sufficient to provide  
19 an income of a minimum of ten dollars a week, and  
20 more if necessary in cases of special need such as sick-  
21 ness. The department of public welfare shall revise  
22 this figure upwards in accordance with any increase  
23 in the cost of living that may occur due to inflation  
24 or to the reduction of food supplies brought about by  
25 the operation by the agricultural adjustment act.  
26 No person receiving assistance hereunder shall be  
27 deemed to be a pauper by reason thereof.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter one hundred and eighteen  
2 A is hereby further amended by striking out section  
3 two and inserting in place thereof the following:—

4 *Section 2.* Each board of public welfare shall, for  
5 the purpose of granting adequate assistance and serv-  
6 ice to such aged persons, establish a division thereof  
7 to be designated as the bureau of old age assistance.  
8 In determining the need for financial assistance, said  
9 bureaus shall give consideration to the resources of  
10 the aged person. Separate records of all such aged  
11 persons who are aided shall be kept and reports re-  
12 turned in the manner prescribed by section thirty-four  
13 of chapter forty-one and by sections thirty-two and  
14 thirty-three of chapter one hundred and seventeen.