

HOUSE No. 1690

By Mr. O'Kane of Dudley, petition of Joseph N. O'Kane that bureaus of old age assistance be established in cities and towns to be independent of departments of public welfare. Pensions and Municipal Finance (sitting jointly).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE CITIES AND TOWNS OF THE COMMONWEALTH A BUREAU OF OLD AGE ASSISTANCE INDEPENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter one hundred and eighteen A of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out section two,
3 as most recently amended by section two of chapter
4 four hundred and forty of the acts of nineteen hun-
5 dred and thirty-seven, and inserting in place thereof
6 the following: —

7 *Section 2.* The city council of each city and the
8 selectmen of each town which has not joined₄ in the
9 formation of a public welfare district, under section
10 forty-four of chapter one hundred and seventeen
11 shall for the purpose of granting adequate assistance
12 and service to such aged persons, establish a depart-

13 ment to be known as the bureau of old age assist-
14 ance. In each other town a division of old age assist-
15 ance shall be established by the department of public
16 welfare. In determining the need for financial assist-
17 ance, said bureaus shall give consideration to the
18 resources of the aged person, but no action shall be
19 brought under sections twenty to twenty-two, inclu-
20 sive, of chapter two hundred and seventy-three by a
21 board of public welfare in connection with the grant-
22 ing of assistance under this chapter except with the
23 written approval of the department. Not later than
24 fourteen days from the initial payment to applicants,
25 notice on a form prescribed by the department shall
26 be forwarded to the appeal board hereinafter provided
27 for, stating in each case any and all deductions from
28 the amounts of assistance prescribed herein and the
29 reasons for all such deductions. If said deductions
30 in a particular case are not approved by said appeal
31 board they shall not be made in subsequent payments
32 in said case and the amount of deductions made in
33 such initial payment shall be added to the amount
34 of the next succeeding payment. In determining the
35 amounts of assistance to be paid under this chapter,
36 local departments of old age assistance and boards of
37 public welfare shall determine that all applicants
38 eligible for such assistance shall receive such assist-
39 ance in the amounts prescribed herein or in amounts
40 which would bring said applicants' total income to
41 the equivalent of such amounts. Separate records of
42 all such aged persons who are assisted shall be kept
43 and reports returned in the manner prescribed by
44 section thirty-four of chapter forty-one and by sec-
45 tions thirty-two and thirty-three of chapter one hun-
46 dred and seventeen. The department shall make an

47 annual report to the general court, and also such
48 reports to the social security board established under
49 the federal social security act, approved August four-
50 teenth, nineteen hundred and thirty-five, as may be
51 necessary to secure to the commonwealth the bene-
52 fits of said act.

