
Accompanying the fourth recommendation of the Department of Public Welfare (House, No. 64). Pensions and Old Age Assistance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE GRANTING OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR
THE AGED.

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 118A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out sections 18 and 19, added by section 8 of chapter
3 781 of the acts of 1960, and inserting in place thereof the fol-
4 lowing two sections:—

5 *Section 18.* A person entitled to medical assistance for the
6 aged shall receive such assistance on the basis of need. The
7 amount of such assistance shall be determined in accordance
8 with standards approved by the department after consideration
9 of the degree to which a person's income and resources are in-
10 sufficient to meet the cost of necessary medical care. When a
11 person is granted medical assistance for the aged, the first one
12 hundred and fifty dollars of any monthly income shall be re-
13 tained by the person for his maintenance and the excess shall be
14 used towards meeting his medical needs. In the case of a person
15 and his or her spouse, the combined total monthly income of two
16 hundred and twenty-five dollars shall be retained for their main-
17 tenance and the excess shall be used towards meeting medical
18 needs.

19 Ownership by a person of bank deposits, securities, cash on
20 hand or similar assets of two thousand dollars or less or owner-
21 ship by a person and his or her spouse of bank deposits, securi-
22 ties, cash on hand or similar assets of a combined total of three

23 thousand dollars or less shall not disqualify such person. The
24 cash surrender value of life insurance shall not be included in
25 determining assets.

26 *Section 19.* Each person in a licensed nursing home, chronic
27 hospital or public medical institution having no income or a
28 monthly income of less than fifteen dollars shall be paid an
29 amount for personal needs which together with any income will
30 provide to the person fifteen dollars, such payment to be made
31 monthly in advance.

32 When a person is granted medical assistance for the aged in a
33 licensed nursing home, chronic hospital or public medical insti-
34 tution, the first fifteen dollars of any monthly income shall be
35 retained by the person for his personal needs and the excess shall
36 be used towards meeting his medical needs.

37 When a person is granted medical assistance for the aged in a
38 licensed nursing home, chronic hospital or public medical insti-
39 tution and his or her spouse lives outside of an institution, they
40 may retain up to two hundred and twenty-five dollars of their
41 combined total monthly income for the spouse's maintenance
42 and any excess must be used towards meeting medical needs;
43 provided further, that any allowance for personal needs afore-
44 mentioned shall be available in addition to said income exemp-
45 tion in the manner provided.