

By Mr. Chmura of Springfield, petition of Rudy Chmura relative to the furnishing of aid and assistance to poor and indigent persons for funeral expenses. Social Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE FURNISHING OF AID AND ASSISTANCE BY THE COMMONWEALTH TO POOR AND INDIGENT PERSONS FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES.

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 117 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 18 and inserting in place thereof
3 the following section: —

4 *Section 18.* The department shall provide for the decent
5 burial of all deceased persons who were at the time of death
6 recipients of aid or assistance under this chapter; all deceased
7 persons who, although without means of support at the time of
8 death, did not apply for such aid or assistance; and all unknown
9 persons found dead. It shall also provide for the grave of each
10 such deceased person a suitable marker bearing the name and
11 dates of birth and death of such deceased person, if known, and
12 for the opening of such grave. The expense thereof may be
13 recovered of their kindred, if any, chargeable by law for their
14 support in the manner provided in this chapter; and if the
15 expense of their funeral and burial is not paid by such kindred,
16 an amount not exceeding one thousand dollars for the funeral
17 expenses of each person.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 117 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 19 and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section: —

4 *Section 19.* In case of the decease of a poor and indigent
5 person the commonwealth shall pay for the expense of the
6 funeral and burial of such person the sum of one thousand
7 dollars; provided, that the deceased left no estate and that his
8 kindred are unable to pay for his decent burial; and provided,
9 further, that the funeral director engaged in conducting the
10 funeral and burial of said deceased person shall perform the
11 services and furnish the materials in connection therewith as
12 follows: - removal of body; procuring of death certificate and
13 burial permit; embalming and dressing of body; furnishing
14 suitable burial garment; furnishing suitable casket, bearing metal
15 plate with name of deceased engraved thereon; furnishing outer
16 case of pine wood; furnishing hearse for transporting body of the
17 deceased to a cemetery within a distance of ten miles; furnishing
18 conveyance for transporting to such cemetery the immediate
19 family of the deceased; and procuring of a clergyman, of the
20 religion that the deceased professed, to officiate at the funeral.