

HOUSE No. 2435

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 24, 1951.

The Committee on Public Welfare, to whom was re-committed so much of the message from His Excellency the Governor submitting the annual budget of estimates, requests and recommendations for appropriations or other authorizations for expenditures by the Commonwealth during the fiscal year July 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952 (House, No. 1) as relates to revising the laws which provide for support of the indigent, aid to dependent children and assistance to certain aged citizens in order to take advantage of additional federal grants made available by recent amendments to the Federal Social Security Act, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2435).

For the committee,

J. ROBERT AYERS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE METHOD OF
PAYING FOR MEDICAL CARE OF RECIPIENTS OF AID TO
DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND OLD AGE ASSISTANCE.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would
2 tend to defeat its purpose, which is to take advantage
3 of an amendment to the Social Security Act so-called,
4 therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law
5 necessary for the immediate preservation of the pub-
6 lic health and convenience.

*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. Section 2 of chapter 118 of the General
2 Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 418 of
3 the acts of 1948, is hereby further amended by strik-
4 ing out the last five sentences of said section and in-
5 serting in place thereof the following sentences:—
6 Such assistance shall be paid by cash or in check and
7 shall be paid semi-monthly unless the applicant pre-
8 fers less frequent payments. Payment for medical,
9 hospital, or funeral expenses of any such parent or
10 dependent child in his or her custody may be paid
11 directly to the person or hospital furnishing such
12 services. Payment for other services rendered to such
13 a parent or a dependent child in his or her custody may

14 be paid directly to the person furnishing such services
15 only when such payment is effected to meet an ex-
16 pense which remained unpaid at the time of the death
17 of the parent or his commitment to an institution as
18 an insane person or in a case where such payment is
19 necessary to discharge an obligation incurred by the
20 board of public welfare in securing such services for
21 such parent or dependent child. Nothing in this
22 chapter shall be construed as authorizing any public
23 official, agent or representative, in carrying out any
24 provision of this chapter, to take charge of any child
25 over the objection of either the father or the mother
26 of such child, or of the person standing in loco parentis
27 to such child, except pursuant to a proper court order.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 118A of the Gen-
2 eral Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 799
3 of the acts of 1950, is hereby further amended by strik-
4 ing out the last two sentences of said section and in-
5 serting after the fourth sentence the following new
6 sentences: — Payment for medical, hospital, or funeral
7 expenses of any such aged person may be paid directly
8 to the person or hospital furnishing such services.
9 Payment for other services rendered to such an aged
10 person may be paid directly to the person furnishing
11 such services only when such payment is effected to
12 meet an expense which remained unpaid at the time
13 of the death of such aged person or his commitment to
14 an institution as an insane person or in a case where
15 such payment is necessary to discharge an obligation
16 incurred by the board of public welfare in securing
17 such services for such aged person.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country. It is followed by a detailed analysis of the economic situation, which shows a steady decline in the standard of living. The author then discusses the political situation, which is characterized by a lack of democracy and a concentration of power in the hands of a few. Finally, the report concludes with a series of recommendations for reform.

The author's analysis is based on a wide range of sources, including official statistics, interviews with government officials, and reports from the press. He is particularly critical of the government's economic policies, which he believes have led to the current state of affairs. He also criticizes the political system for its lack of transparency and accountability.

The report is a valuable contribution to the understanding of the country's problems. It provides a clear and concise summary of the situation, and offers practical suggestions for how to address the challenges facing the country. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the country's future.