

By Mr. Ansel, a petition of Julius Ansel and the Senior Citizens and Associates of America, by Charles C. O'Donnell, for legislation to provide that the Department of Public Welfare establish the maximum rates which may be charged by certain registered physicians and podiatrists for services rendered to recipients of old age assistance and medical assistance. Pensions and Old Age Assistance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE ESTABLISH THE MAXIMUM RATES WHICH MAY BE CHARGED BY CERTAIN REGISTERED PHYSICIANS AND PODIATRISTS FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO RECIPIENTS OF OLD AGE ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

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 22 of chapter 121 of the General Laws, as appear-
- 2 ing in the Tercentenary Edition, is hereby amended by adding
- 3 at the end the following paragraph: —
- 4 The commissioner shall make an annual survey of fees
- 5 charged by registered physicians and podiatrists in the com-
- 6 monwealth. He shall establish the maximum rates which
- 7 may be charged recipients of old age assistance and medical
- 8 assistance which rates shall be for services agreeable to the
- 9 organizations representing such physicians and podiatrists. No
- 10 physician or podiatrist duly registered in the commonwealth
- 11 shall charge a recipient of old age assistance or medical assis-
- 12 tance any fee in addition to the maximum rates established by
- 13 the commissioner under this section. Whoever violates any
- 14 provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of one
- 15 hundred dollars for the first offense, two hundred dollars and
- 16 the suspension of his license for sixty days for the second
- 17 offense, and one thousand dollars and the revocation of his
- 18 license for one year for the third offense.

The Constitution of the State

The Constitution of the State is a fundamental document that outlines the structure and powers of the government. It serves as the supreme law of the land, providing a framework for the organization of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The document is designed to protect the rights and liberties of the citizens while ensuring the effective functioning of the state.

The Constitution is divided into several articles, each detailing a specific aspect of the government's structure. Article I, for example, establishes the legislative branch, known as the General Assembly, and defines its powers and procedures. Article II outlines the executive branch, including the role of the Governor and the responsibilities of the executive officers. Article III sets up the judicial branch, detailing the structure of the courts and the powers of the judiciary.

One of the key features of the Constitution is the separation of powers, which ensures that no single branch of government becomes too powerful. This system of checks and balances is designed to prevent the concentration of power and to protect the rights of the people. Additionally, the Constitution includes provisions for the amendment process, allowing the document to be updated to reflect the needs and values of the state over time.

The Constitution also serves as a guide for the actions of government officials and citizens alike. It provides a clear set of rules and principles that govern the operation of the state, ensuring that all actions are taken in accordance with the law. By upholding the Constitution, the state can maintain its integrity and ensure the well-being of its citizens.