

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F I F T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 799

H. P. 1245

House of Representatives, February 20, 1951.

Referred to the Committee on Welfare, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Bubar of Blaine.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

AN ACT Liberalizing Certain Limitations on Old Age Assistance.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 22, § 260, amended. Section 260 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 260. Old age assistance provided for; application. Subject to the qualifications and restrictions contained in sections 256 to 274, inclusive, every person residing in this state shall be entitled to assistance in old age. The amount of assistance which any person shall receive shall be determined on a budgetary basis with due regard to the conditions existing in each case and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the department. This assistance shall be sufficient, when added to all other income and support of the recipient, to provide such person with a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health, but not less than \$60 per month and not exceeding \$75 per month.

Applications for old age assistance shall be made to the department on forms provided by the department. Said applications shall contain such information as may be required by the department.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 22, § 261, repealed and replaced. Section 261 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 261. Requisites for assistance. Old age assistance shall be granted only to an applicant who:

I. Is 65 years of age or more;

II. Has not sufficient income or other resources to provide a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health;

III. Has resided in the state for 5 or more years within the 9 years immediately preceding application for assistance and has resided therein continuously for 1 year immediately preceding the application;

IV. Is not an inmate of and is not being maintained by any municipal, state or national institution; but an inmate of such an institution may file application for assistance under the provisions of sections 256 to 274, inclusive, and any allowance made thereon shall take effect and be paid upon his ceasing to be an inmate of such institution;

V. Is a citizen of the United States.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 22, § 265, repealed and replaced. Section 265 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 265. Disqualification of applicant and recipient. Any applicant for or recipient of old age assistance, who divests himself directly or indirectly of any property without a reasonable consideration or for the purpose of qualifying for such assistance, shall forfeit all right to receive assistance under the provisions of sections 256 to 274, inclusive.

Any recipient of old age assistance who is convicted of a felony shall be disqualified from receiving old age assistance.'

Sec. 4. R. S., c. 22, §§ 268, 271, 272, repealed. Sections 268, 271 and 272 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes, as amended, are hereby repealed.

Referendum. The aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this state are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives, at the next general or special state-wide election held on the 2nd

Monday in September, to give in their votes upon the acceptance or rejection of the foregoing act, and the question shall be:

“Shall ‘An Act Liberalizing Certain Limitations on Old Age Assistance,’ passed by the 95th legislature, be accepted?”

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed within a square upon their ballot their opinion of the same, those in favor of said act voting “Yes” and those opposed to said act voting “No” and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings, and return made to the office of the secretary of state in the same manner as votes for governor and members of the legislature, and the governor and council shall count the same and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of said act, the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the act shall thereupon become effective as of the date of said proclamation.

Secretary of state shall prepare ballots. The secretary of state shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing act, accompanied by a copy thereof.