existing harbor lines and the newly established harbor lines, the commissioner of public lands shall plat said additional tidelands and shorelands in accordance with the present state statutes governing such platting.

Passed the House March 7, 1953.
Passed the Senate March 10, 1953.
Approved by the Governor March 18, 1953.

CHAPTER 174.
[ Sub. H. B. 225. ]

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

AN ACT relating to public assistance; amending certain sections of chapter 43.17, 43.18, 74.04, 74.08, 74.10, 74.12, 74.16, RCW; adding new sections thereto; repealing certain sections of 43.18, 74.04, 74.08, 74.10, 74.12, 74.16, RCW; providing for a state assessment not in excess of two mills; containing an appropriation; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Section 43.17.010, RCW, as derived from section 1, chapter 111, Laws of 1937, is amended to read as follows:

There shall be departments of the state government which shall be known as, (1) the department of public assistance, (2) the department of public institutions, (3) the department of health, (4) the department of conservation and development, (5) the department of labor and industries, (6) the department of agriculture, (7) the department of licenses, (8) the department of fisheries, (9) the department of game, and (10) the department of highways, which shall be charged with the execution, enforcement and administration of such laws, and invested with such powers and required to perform such duties, as the legislature may provide.
Sec. 2. Section 43.17.020, RCW, as derived from section 1, chapter 111, Laws of 1937, is amended to read as follows:

There shall be a chief executive officer of each department to be known as: (1) The director of public assistance, (2) the director of public institutions, (3) the director of health, (4) the director of conservation and development, (5) the director of labor and industries, (6) the director of agriculture, (7) the director of licenses, (8) the director of fisheries, (9) the director of game, and (10) the director of highways.

They shall be appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate, and hold office at the pleasure of the governor. If a vacancy occurs while the senate is not in session, the governor shall make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the senate, when he shall present to that body his nomination for the office.

Sec. 3. Section 43.18.010, RCW, as derived from sections 3 and 5, chapter 111, Laws of 1937, is amended to read as follows:

The director of public assistance shall be the administrative head of the department of public assistance and he shall have the power to and shall employ such assistants and personnel as may be necessary for the general administration of the department: Provided, That such employment is in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state merit system. The director shall through and by means of his assistants and personnel exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the public assistance laws of this state, unless otherwise directed by the state public assistance committee, which shall not be contrary to the laws of this state.

Sec. 4. Section 43.18.080, RCW, as derived from sections 1 and 2, chapter 132, Laws of 1937, as last
amended by section 13, chapter 166, Laws of 1949, is amended to read as follows:

The personnel in the aid to the blind program shall be chosen on the basis of their experience and qualifications in the field of work among the blind, and to the fullest extent possible shall be residents of this state at the time of their selection. In appointing and employing personnel to carry into effect the provisions of this act, the director shall give preference under the merit system to qualified and available blind persons up to fifty percent of such personnel.

Sec. 5. Section 74.08.090; RCW, as derived from section 10, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, is amended to read as follows:

The department is hereby authorized to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act to the end that this act shall be administered uniformly throughout the state, and that the spirit and purpose of this act may be complied with. The department shall have the power to compel compliance with the rules and regulations established by it. Such rules and regulations shall be filed with the secretary of state thirty days before their effective date, and copies shall be available for public inspection in the office of the department and in each county office.

Sec. 6. Section 74.04.050, RCW, as derived from section 6, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, is amended to read as follows:

The department shall serve as the single state agency to administer public assistance. The department is hereby empowered and authorized to cooperate in the administration of such federal laws, consistent with the public assistance laws of this state, as may be necessary to qualify for federal funds for:

(a) Old age assistance;
(b) Aid to dependent children;
(c) Aid to the needy blind;
(d) Child welfare services;
(e) Aid to permanently and totally disabled;
(f) Programs of public assistance which are authorized by this act for which provision for federal aid may from time to time be made.

The state hereby accepts and assents to all the present provisions of the federal law under which grants-in-aid are extended to the state to aid in the support of programs administered by the department, and to such additional legislation as may subsequently be enacted as is not inconsistent with the purposes of this act authorizing public welfare and assistance activities. The provisions of this act shall be so administered as to conform with federal requirements with respect to eligibility for the receipt of federal grants.

The department shall periodically make application for federal funds and submit such plans, reports and data, as are required by any act of congress as a condition precedent to the receipt of federal matching funds for such assistance. The department shall make and enforce such rules and regulations as shall be necessary to insure compliance with the terms and conditions of such federal aid grants. In the event of noncompliance with any such rules and regulations, the department shall take over the administration of public assistance programs in any county or counties involved until compliance shall have been effected during which time the department may authorize and approve the expenditure of all public assistance funds within the county.

Amendment. Sec. 7. Section 74.04.060, RCW, as derived from section 5, chapter 128, Laws of 1941, as last amended by section 1, chapter 10, Laws of 1950, extraordinary session, is amended to read as follows:
For the protection of applicants and recipients, the department and the county offices and their respective officers and employees are prohibited, except as hereinafter provided, from disclosing the contents of any records, files, papers and communications, except for purposes directly connected with the administration of the programs of this act. In any judicial proceeding, except such proceedings as is directly concerned with the administration of these programs, such records, files, papers and communications, and their contents, shall be deemed privileged communications and except for the right of any individual to inquire of the office whether a named individual is a recipient of welfare assistance and such person shall be entitled to an affirmative or negative answer.

The county offices shall maintain monthly at their offices a report showing the names and addresses of all recipients in the county receiving public assistance under this act, together with the amount paid to each during the preceding month.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to duly designated representatives of approved private welfare agencies, public officials, members of legislative interim committees and advisory committees when performing duties directly connected with the administration of this act, such as regulation and investigation directly connected therewith: Provided, however, That any information so obtained by such persons or groups shall be treated with such degree of confidentiality as is required by the Federal Social Security Law.

It shall be unlawful, except as provided in this section, for any person, body, association, firm, corporation or other agency to solicit, publish, disclose, receive, make use of, or to authorize, knowingly permit, participate in or acquiesce in the use of any lists or names for commercial or political purposes.
of any nature. The violation of this section shall be a gross misdemeanor.

Sec. 8. Section 74.04.020, RCW, as derived from section 2, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, is amended to read as follows:

There is created a state public assistance committee to consist of the governor, the director of budget and a third member to be appointed by the governor, who shall not be a state officer or employee. The members of the committee shall serve without compensation for their services, but the appointive member shall be entitled to expenses actually incurred in the discharge of his duties which expenses shall be paid out of moneys appropriated to the department. The committee shall have control of the administration of this act and exercise such powers and perform such duties as are prescribed herein.

Sec. 9. Chapter 74.04, RCW, shall have added thereto a new section to read as follows:

There is hereby created a state advisory committee which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the director and the department. The committee shall be composed of seven members with the membership to be selected, in so far as possible, on the basis of giving both geographic and occupational representation throughout the state. Members shall be selected on the basis of their known experience or interest in public assistance and its related problems and not more than four members shall be identified with the same major political party. Appointment to the state committee shall be by the governor, by and with consent of the Senate. The members of the committee shall hold office as follows: two members to serve two years; two members to serve three years; and three members to serve four years. Upon expiration of said original terms subsequent appointments shall be for six years except in the
case of a vacancy, in which event appointment shall be only for the remainder of the unexpired term in which the vacancy occurs.

Sec. 10. Chapter 74.04, RCW, shall have added thereto a new section to read as follows:

The state advisory committee shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To serve in an advisory capacity to the director on all matters pertaining to this act.

(2) To acquaint themselves fully with the operations of the department and periodically recommend such changes to the governor as they deem advisable.

(3) To prepare and publish a mimeographed report of their recommendations. The committee shall prescribe rules for the transaction of its business. The committee shall select a chairman and a secretary. Meetings shall be held quarterly, and special meetings may be called by the director upon seven days’ notice to the committee. Each member of the committee shall receive fifteen dollars per diem for each day actually spent in the performance of his duties and his actual necessary traveling and other expenses incurred in the discharge of such duties as may be requested of him by the director and a majority vote of the committee, provided that no member shall receive in excess of seven hundred dollars in any one year.

No person shall be eligible to hold the office of member of the state advisory committee who holds any public office, whether appointive or elective, with the exception of non-salaried positions, nor who is an official of any political party, nor who is a candidate for any public office.

Sec. 11. Chapter 74.04, RCW, shall have added thereto a new section to read as follows:
There is hereby established a county advisory committee in a county or in one or more counties. The committee shall consist of not less than five members to be appointed by the county commissioners, one of which shall be a county commissioner. Appointments to such committee shall be on the basis of known interest in public assistance and its related problems. Members shall hold office for two year terms. The county advisory committee shall take the necessary steps of forming a committee including rules for the transaction of business.

The county advisory committee shall have the following duties:

(1) To make studies of the public assistance program within the county or counties of their jurisdiction;

(2) To advise the state director and public assistance committee of the results of the studies;

(3) To recommend to the state advisory committee necessary studies and surveys to be made on a state-wide basis;

(4) To call meetings and set the time and number of meetings;

(5) To prepare the agenda of the meetings;

(6) Have access to all records of the county office they deem necessary, in compliance with the present act and/or the federal social security laws; and

(7) The county administrator shall cooperate with this committee in their activities.

Sec. 12. Section 74.04.040, RCW, as derived from section 5, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, is amended to read as follows:

The care, support, and relief of needy persons is hereby declared to be a joint federal, state, and county function. County offices are charged with the responsibility, for the administration of public assistance within the respective county or counties or
parts thereof as local offices of the department as prescribed by the rules and regulations of the department.

Sec. 13. Section 74.04.070, RCW, as derived from section 4, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, as last amended by section 2, chapter 128, Laws of 1941, is amended to read as follows:

There may be established in each county of the state a county office which shall be administered by an executive officer designated as the county administrator. The county administrator shall be appointed by the director in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state merit system.

Sec. 14. Section 74.04.080, RCW, as derived from section 4, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, as last amended by section 2, chapter 128, Laws of 1941, is amended to read as follows:

The county administrator shall have the power to, and shall, employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, which employment shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state merit system, and in accordance with personnel and administrative standards established by the department. The county administrator before qualifying shall furnish a surety bond in such amount as may be fixed by the director, but not less than five thousand dollars, conditioned that the administrator will faithfully account for all money and property that may come into his possession or control. The cost of such bond shall be an administrative expense and shall be paid by the department.

Sec. 15. Section 74.04.180, RCW, as derived from section 12, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, is amended to read as follows:

Public assistance may be administered through a single administrator and a single administrative
office for one or more counties. There may be a local office for the transaction of official business maintained in each county.

SEC. 16. Chapter 74.04, RCW, shall have added thereto a new section to read as follows:

In the event federal laws are changed to so permit, the director shall issue such rules and regulations consistent therewith and with memorials of the legislature, as will recognize the earnings of any persons which commence or are increased after a grant is made to such person without the deduction in full thereof from the amount of their grants. This may be done by exempting a percentage of earnings or increase of earnings subsequent to the making of a grant by the recipients of other classes of relief or by exempting such amount of earnings as the federal laws may require or permit. Such percentage exemption, if possible, shall be made on a sliding scale.

SEC. 17. Section 74.08.010, RCW, as derived from section 3, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as last amended by sections 1 and 3, chapters 1 and 122, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:

For the purposes of this act, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Public assistance"—Public aid to persons in need thereof for any cause, including services, assistance grants, disbursing orders, work relief, general assistance and federal-aid assistance.

(2) "Department"—The department of public assistance.

(3) "County office"—The administrative office for one or more counties.

(4) "Director"—The director of the state department of public assistance.

(5) "Federal-aid assistance"—The specific categories of assistance for which provision is made in
any federal law existing or hereafter passed by which payments are made from the federal government to the state in aid or in respect to payment by the state for public assistance rendered to any category of needy persons, including old age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the permanently and totally disabled persons, aid to the blind, child welfare services and any other programs of public assistance which are authorized by this act for which provision for federal aid may from time to time be made.

(6) "General assistance"—Shall include aid to unemployable persons and unemployed employable persons who are not eligible to receive or are not receiving federal-aid assistance.

(a) Unemployable persons are those persons who by reason of bodily or mental infirmity or other cause are incapacitated from gainful employment.

(b) Unemployed employable persons are those persons who although capable of gainful employment are unemployed.

(7) "Applicant"—Any person who has made a request, or on behalf of whom a request has been made, to any county welfare department for assistance.

(8) "Recipient"—Any person receiving assistance or currently approved to receive assistance at any future date and in addition those dependents whose needs are included in the recipient's grant.

(9) "Income"—Net income in cash or kind available to an applicant or recipient, the receipt of which is regular and predictable enough that an applicant or recipient may rely upon it to contribute appreciably toward meeting his needs: Provided, That in determining the amount of assistance to which a recipient of aid to the blind is entitled or to which any dependent of such recipient may be entitled under any category of public assistance, the
department is hereby authorized to disregard as a resource the first fifty dollars per month of any earned income of such blind recipient who is otherwise eligible for an aid to the blind grant. In formulating rules and regulations pursuant to this chapter the department shall define “earned income” in such a manner as to meet with the approval of the federal security agency.

“Need.”

(10) “Need”—The amount by which the requirements of an individual for himself and the dependent members of his family, as measured by the standards of the department, exceed all income and resources available to such individual in meeting such requirements.

“Resource.”

(11) “Resource”—Any asset, tangible or intangible, which can be applied toward meeting an applicant’s or recipient’s need, either directly or by conversion into money or its equivalent: Provided, That an applicant may retain the following described resources and not be ineligible for public assistance because of such resources:

Exemptions.

Home.

(a) A home, which is defined as real property owned and used by an applicant or recipient as a place of residence, together with a reasonable amount of property surrounding and contiguous thereto. Whenever a recipient shall cease to use such property for residential purposes, either by himself or his dependents, the property shall be considered a resource which can be made available to meet need. If the person or his dependents absent themselves from the home for a consecutive period of ninety days such absence shall raise a presumption of abandonment: Provided, That temporary hospitalization of a recipient or absence from the recipient’s home for health reasons for a period in excess of ninety days shall not raise such a presumption.

(b) Household furnishings and personal clothing used and useful to the person.

(c) An automobile.

(d) Cash of not to exceed two hundred dollars for a single person or four hundred dollars for a family unit, or marketable securities of such value.

(e) Life insurance having a cash surrender value not in excess of five hundred dollars for a single person or one thousand dollars for a family unit: Provided, That this maximum allowance shall be decreased by the amount of cash held by the person or the family unit under item (d) above.

(f) Other personal property and belongings which are used and useful or which have great sentimental value to the applicant or recipient. Whenever such person ceases to make use of such personal property and belongings, the same shall be considered a resource available to meet need.

The department shall by rule and regulation fix the ceiling value for the individual or family unit for all personal property and belongings as defined in subsection (c), (d) and (e) of this section. If an applicant for or recipient of public assistance possesses personal property and belongings of a value in excess value, such person shall be ineligible for public assistance: Provided, That in the determination of need of applicants for or recipients of general assistance no resources shall be considered as exempt per se, but the department may by rule and regulation adopt standards which will permit the exemption of the home and personal property and belongings from consideration as an available resource when such resources are determined to be necessary to the applicant's or recipient's restoration to independence.

Sec. 18. Section 74.08.040, RCW, as derived from section 5, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as last amended by section 6, chapter 1, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:
Grants shall be awarded on a uniform statewide basis in accordance with standards of assistance established by the department. The department shall establish standards of assistance for old age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, and general assistance to unemployable persons which shall be used to determine an applicant's or recipient's living requirements and which shall include reasonable allowances for shelter, fuel, food, clothing, household maintenance and operation, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals. The total dollar value of the assistance budget shall, under average conditions, be not less than sixty dollars per month for an individual living alone; but a recipient shall not receive a grant of sixty dollars or more unless his actual requirements amount to sixty dollars. Grants shall be paid in the amount of requirements less all available income and resources which can be applied by the recipient toward meeting need, including shelter.

In order to determine such standards of assistance the department shall establish objective budgetary guides based upon actual living cost studies of the items of the budget. Such living cost studies shall be renewed or revised annually and new standards of assistance reflecting current living costs shall determine budgets of need. Any indicated adjustment in standards shall become effective not later than June 1st of 1953 and June 1st of each succeeding year.

The standards of assistance shall take into account the economy of joint living arrangements, and the department may, by rule and regulation, prescribe maximums for grants.

For general assistance to unemployed employable persons, the department shall establish standards of assistance based upon annual living cost studies and compatible with a minimum necessary
for decent and healthful subsistence. Such standards shall permit the meeting of actual and emergent need on an individual basis.

SEC. 19. Chapter 74.08, RCW, is amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

Public assistance shall be awarded to any applicant:

(1) Who is in need; and

(2) Who has not made a voluntary assignment of property or cash for the purpose of qualifying for an assistance grant; and

(3) Who is not an inmate of a public institution except as a patient in a medical institution and who is not a patient in an institution for mental disease or a patient in a medical institution because of a diagnosis of psychosis: Provided, That the assistance paid by the department to recipients in nursing homes, or receiving nursing home care, may cover the cost of clothing and incidentals and general maintenance exclusive of medical care and health services. The department may pay a grant to cover the cost of clothing and personal incidentals in public or private medical institutions.

SEC. 20. Section 74.08.030, RCW, as derived from section 4, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as last amended by section 1, chapter 165, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements of section 19, an applicant for old age assistance must be an applicant who:

(1) Has attained the age of sixty-five, and

(2) Has resided within the state of Washington for at least five years during the nine years immediately preceding the application and has resided herein continuously for one year immediately preceding the application.
Sec. 21. Section 74.16.030, RCW, as derived from section 8, chapter 132, Laws of 1937, as last amended by section 1, chapter 170, Laws of 1941, is amended to read as follows:

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements of section 19, an applicant for aid to the blind assistance must be an applicant:

(1) Who is twenty-one years of age or over; or who has reached his sixteenth birthday and is found not to be acceptable for education at the state school for the blind;

(2) Who has no vision or whose vision, with correcting glasses, is so defective as to prevent the performance of ordinary activities for which eyesight is essential;

(3) Who has resided in this state for five years during the ten years immediately preceding the date of application, or who suffered loss of sight while a resident of this state and has resided continuously in this state since such loss of sight except for any temporary absence from the state incident to receiving treatment for the injury or disease causing loss of sight or for the attempt of restoring sight.

(4) Who is not publicly soliciting alms in any part of this state. The term "publicly soliciting" means the wearing, carrying, or exhibiting of signs denoting blindness and the carrying of receptacles for the reception of alms, or the doing of the same by proxy, or by begging: Provided, That no person otherwise eligible shall be deemed ineligible who has been a patient in a public hospital for a period of less than thirty days; or is employed in a shop maintained for the blind which does not furnish board or room; or attends a college or university in the state; or who pays the assistance money received to a private institution or home for his care.

Sec. 22. Section 74.16.040, RCW, as derived from section 9, chapter 132, Laws of 1937, as last amended
by section 1, chapter 5, Laws of 1951, first extraordinary session, is amended to read as follows:

Examination of the applicant's eyes by an ophthalmologist or physician skilled in diseases of the eye or by a licensed optometrist shall be provided without charge to the applicant for aid to the blind assistance.

SEC. 23. Section 74.12.030, RCW, as derived from section 4, chapter 114, Laws of 1937, as last amended by section 2, chapter 242, Laws of 1941, is amended to read as follows:

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements of section 19, an applicant for aid to dependent children must be a needy child:

(1) Who has resided in the state for one year immediately preceding application; or

(2) Who was born within the last year, and whose parent, or other relative, with whom he lives has lived in this state for a year immediately preceding his birth; or

(3) Whose parent or other relative with whom he lives has been a resident of this state for one year immediately preceding application.

SEC. 24. Section 74.12.010, RCW, as derived from section 1, chapter 114, Laws of 1937, as last amended by section 1, chapter 242, Laws of 1941, is amended to read as follows:

For the purposes of the administration of aid to dependent children assistance, the term "dependent child" means a child in need under the age of sixteen years or under the age of eighteen years if regularly attending school: Provided, That if the federal government matches payments for all needy children up to the age of eighteen years, then the term "dependent child" shall mean a needy child under the age of eighteen years; and who has been deprived of parental support or care by reason of the death, con-
continued absence from the home, or physical or mental incapacity of the parent, and who is living with his father, mother, grandmother, grandfather, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle or aunt, in a place of residence maintained by one or more of such relatives as his or their homes.

“Aid to dependent children” means money payments and services with respect to a dependent child or dependent children and the needy parents or relatives with whom the child lives.

Sec. 25. Section 74.10.020, RCW, as derived from section 2, chapter 176, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:

In addition to the eligibility requirements under section 19, disability assistance grants will be awarded on a uniform statewide basis to an applicant who is:

(1) Permanently and totally disabled as defined by the state department of public assistance and such definition is approved by the federal security agency for federal matching funds, and

(2) Eighteen years of age or over, and

(3) Has been a resident of the state of Washington for one year prior to the date of application, and

(4) Willing to submit himself to such examinations as are deemed necessary by the state department of public assistance to establish the extent and nature of his disability.

Sec. 26. Section 74.08.050, RCW, as derived from section 6, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, is amended to read as follows:

Application for a grant in any category of public assistance shall be made to the county office by the applicant or by another on his behalf, and shall be reduced to writing upon standard forms prescribed by the department, and a copy of the application upon such standard form shall be given to each applicant at the time of making application.
Sec. 27. Chapter 74.08, RCW, is amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

Each applicant for or recipient of public assistance shall make an application for assistance which shall contain or be verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury. The director, by rule and regulation, may require that any other forms filled out by applicants or recipients of public assistance shall contain or be verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury and such declaration shall be in lieu of any oath otherwise required, and each applicant shall be so informed at the time of the signing.

Any applicant for or recipient of public assistance who willfully makes and subscribes any application, statement or other paper which contains or is verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury and which he does not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter shall be guilty of a felony.

Sec. 28. Section 74.08.060, RCW, as derived from section 7, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, is amended to read as follows:

Whenever the department or an authorized agency thereof receives an application for a grant an investigation and record shall be promptly made of the facts supporting the application. The department shall be required to approve or deny the application within forty-five days after the filing thereof and shall immediately notify the applicant in writing of its decision. Provided, That if the department is not able within forty-five days, despite due diligence, to secure all information necessary to establish his eligibility, the department is charged to continue to secure such information and if such information, when established, makes applicant eligible, the department shall pay his grant from date of authoriza-
tion, or forty-five days after date of application whichever is sooner.

Any person entitled to relief but under temporary disability from making application, or any person about to become sixty-five years of age or the parent of an unborn child who upon birth will become a dependent child may at any time after forty-five days prior to the occurrence of any of said events make application as herein provided.

Sec. 29. Chapter 74.08, RCW, is amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

No person shall be eligible to concurrently receive assistance from more than one category of federal-aid assistance to meet his own needs. This shall not be construed to prevent a recipient from receiving concurrently as grantee-relative assistance granted in behalf of legal dependents if his needs are not covered by assistance given to such dependents.

Sec. 30. Section 74.08.070, RCW, as derived from section 8, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, is amended to read as follows:

Any applicant or recipient feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of the department or any authorized agency of the department shall have the right to a fair hearing to be conducted by the director of the department or by a duly appointed, qualified and acting supervisor thereof, or by an examiner especially appointed by the director for such purpose. The hearing shall be conducted in the county in which the appellant resides, and a transcript of the testimony shall be made and included in the record, the costs of which shall be borne by the department. A copy of this transcript shall be given the appellant if request for same is made in writing by the appellant or his attorney of record.

Any appellant who desires a fair hearing shall within sixty days after receiving notice of the de-
cision of the department or an authorized agency of
the department, file with the director a notice of
appeal from the decision. It shall be the duty of the
department upon receipt of such notice to set a
date for the fair hearing, such date to be not more
than thirty days after receipt of notice. The depart-
ment shall notify the appellant of the time and place
of said hearing at least five days prior to the date
thereof by registered mail or by personal service
upon said appellant, unless otherwise agreed by
appellant and the department.

At any time after the filing of the notice of
appeal with the director, any appellant or attorney
for appellant with written authorization or next
of kin shall have the right of access to, and can
examine any files and records of the department in
the case on appeal.

It shall be the duty of the department within
thirty days after the date of hearing to notify the
appellant of the decision of the director and the
failure to so notify the appellant shall constitute an
affirmation of the decision of the department.

Sec. 31. Section 74.08.080, RCW, as deriv-
sected from section 9, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, is amended to
read as follows:

In the event an appellant feels himself aggrieved
by the decision rendered in the hearing provided for
in the foregoing section, he shall have the right to
appeal to the superior court of the county of his legal
residence, which appeal shall be taken by a notice
filed with the clerk of the court and served upon the
director either by registered mail or by personal
service within sixty days after the decision of the
department has been affirmed or modified as pro-
vided in RCW 74.08.070. Upon receipt of the notice
of appeal, the clerk of the superior court shall im-
mmediately docket the case for trial and no filing fee
shall be collected of the appellant.
Within ten days after being served with a notice of appeal, the director shall give the appellant a copy of the transcript of testimony adduced at the fair hearing and shall file with the clerk of the court the record of the case on appeal, and no further pleadings shall be necessary to bring the appeal to issue.

The court shall decide the case on the record.

The findings of the director as to the facts shall be conclusive unless the court determines that the evidence in the record preponderates against such findings.

The court may affirm the decision of the director or modify or reverse any decision of the director where it finds the director has acted arbitrarily, capriciously, or contrary to law and remand the cause to the director for further proceedings in conformity with the decision of the court. Either party may appeal from the decision of the superior court to the supreme court of the state, which appeal shall be taken and conducted in the manner provided by law or by the rules of court applicable to civil appeals: Provided, That no bond shall be required on any appeal under this act. In the event that either the superior court or the supreme court renders a decision in favor of the appellant, said appellant shall be entitled to reasonable attorney’s fees and costs. If a decision of the director or of the court is made in favor of the appellant, assistance shall be paid from date of the denial of the application, or in the case of a recipient, from the effective date of the decision from which he has appealed.

Sec. 32. Section 74.08.120, RCW, as derived from section 13, chapter 6, Laws of 1949, is amended to read as follows:

The term “funeral” shall mean the proper preparation and care of the remains of a deceased person with needed facilities and appropriate memorial ser-
services, including necessary costs of a lot or cremation and all services related to interment and the customary memorial marking of a grave.

The department is hereby directed through the county offices to assume responsibility for the funeral of deceased persons dying without assets sufficient to pay for the minimum standard funeral herein provided.

The department shall not pay more than cost for a minimum standard service rendered by each vendor. Payments to the funeral director and to the cemetery or crematorium will be made by separate vouchers. The standard of such services and the uniform amounts to be paid shall be determined by the department after giving due consideration to such advice and counsel as it shall obtain from the trade associations of the various vendors and related state departments, agencies and commissions. The payments made by the department shall not be subject to supplementation by the relatives or friends of recipients. Whenever relatives or friends provide for other than the minimum standard service authorized, the state shall not participate in the payment of any part of the cost.

Sec. 33. Chapter 74.08, RCW, is amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

Public assistance shall not be granted under this act to any person who has made an assignment or transfer of property for the purpose of rendering himself eligible for assistance under this act. Any person who shall have transferred or shall transfer any real or personal property or any interest in property within two years of the date of application for public assistance without receiving adequate monetary consideration therefor, or any person who after becoming a recipient transfers any property or any interest in property without the consent of the director, shall be ineligible for public assistance for
a period of time during which the reasonable value of the property so transferred would have been adequate to meet his needs under normal conditions of living: Provided, That the director is hereby authorized to allow exceptions in cases where undue hardship would result from a denial of assistance.

SEC. 34. Section 74.08.300, RCW, as derived from section 13, chapter 182, Laws of 1935, is amended to read as follows:

If, at any time during the continuance of public assistance, the recipient thereof becomes possessed of any property, resources or income in excess of the amount previously declared to the department, it shall be the duty of the recipient to notify the department within thirty days of the receipt or possession of such property, income or resource. Any assistance granted after the recipient has come into possession of such property, resource or income in excess of his need, and which was not reported within thirty days, may be deducted from subsequent assistance payments to the recipient or may be recovered by the state department by a civil action instituted by the attorney general.

SEC. 35. Section 74.04.300, RCW, as derived from section 27, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, is amended to read as follows:

If a recipient receives public assistance for which he is not eligible, or receives public assistance in an amount greater than that for which he is eligible by reason of the possession of or having come into possession of any resources which he fails to disclose to the department, or conceals resources such as cash in hand, bank accounts, savings accounts, cash income, or any other kind of resources, the total amount of such assistance paid to such recipient shall be a debt due the state and the attorney general shall prosecute an action to recover the amount thereof in

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a civil action against such recipient, his heirs, executors, or assigns.

Sec. 36. Chapter 74.08, RCW, shall have added thereto a new section to read as follows:

Upon the death of a person who has been a recipient of old age assistance the total amount paid under the provisions of this act shall be a debt due the state and a claim for said debt shall be filed in accordance with RCW 11.40.010, and as hereafter amended: Provided, That if the heirs, devisees or legatees of any recipient of old age assistance shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the probate court that they were financially unable to render him support during the period in which he was such a recipient, the amount paid under the provisions of this act shall not be a debt due the state, and said heirs, devisees or legatees shall take free of any such claim.

Procedure for the allowance of such claims shall be in accordance with chapter 11.40, RCW, and as hereafter amended, and shall be subject to chapter 11.52, RCW, and as hereafter amended.

The claim of the state shall have preference to the claims of all unsecured creditors, except funeral expenses, expenses of last sickness and of administration.

Such claims shall not be enforced against any real estate while it is occupied by the surviving spouse or dependent children of the recipient, unless it becomes necessary for the state to protect its position as against another creditor or creditors, but the statute of limitations shall be tolled as to the state and the time that the collection is prohibited under this section shall not be a part of the time limited for the commencement of action. All recoveries under this act shall be distributed between the county, state and federal government, respectively,
in the proportion they have contributed assistance to such recipient.

The provisions of this section shall also apply to any person or his estate receiving benefits of any public assistance which materially improved or benefited any real estate owned by the recipient while benefiting from public assistance under this act or at his death.

**New section.**

**SEC. 37.** Chapter 74.08, RCW, shall have added thereto a new section to read as follows:

> When the consideration for a deed executed and delivered by a recipient is not paid, or when the consideration does not approximate the fair cash market value of the property, such deed shall be prima facie fraudulent as to the state. The attorney general upon request of the director shall file suit to rescind such transaction except as to subsequent bona fide purchasers for value. In the event that it be established by judicial proceedings that a fraudulent conveyance occurred, the value of any public assistance which may have been furnished may be recovered in any proceeding from the recipient or his estate.

**Amendment.**

**SEC. 38.** Section 74.08.290, RCW, as derived from section 12, chapter 182, Laws of 1935, is amended to read as follows:

> The department is hereby authorized to suspend temporarily the public assistance granted to any person for any period during which such person is not in need thereof.

> If a recipient is convicted of any crime or offense, and punished by imprisonment, no payment shall be made during the period of imprisonment.

**New section.**

**SEC. 39.** Chapter 74.08, RCW, is amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

> No assistance payments shall be made to recipients living outside the state of Washington unless in the discretion of the director there is sound social
reason for such out-of-state payments: *Provided,* That the period for making such payments when authorized shall not exceed the length of time required to satisfy the residence requirements in the other state in order to be eligible for a grant in the same category of assistance as the recipient was eligible to receive in Washington.

Sec. 40. Section 74.08.280, RCW, as derived from section 10, chapter 182, Laws of 1935, as last amended by section 7, chapter 156, Laws of 1937, is amended to read as follows:

If any person receiving public assistance is, on the testimony of reputable witnesses, found incapable of taking care of himself or his money, the director may direct the payment of the installments of public assistance to any responsible person or corporation or to a legally appointed guardian for his benefit: *Provided,* That if the state requires the appointment of a guardian for this purpose the department shall pay all costs and reasonable fees as fixed by the court.

Sec. 41. Section 74.08.330, RCW, as derived from section 20, chapter 182, Laws of 1935, as last amended by section 1, chapter 17, Laws of 1951, second extraordinary session, is amended to read as follows:

(1) Any person who by means of a wilfully false statement or representation, or by impersonation, or other fraudulent device, or failure to reveal resources as required by law, obtains, or attempts to obtain, or aids or abets any person to obtain any public assistance to which he is not entitled or greater public assistance than that to which he is justly entitled shall be guilty of larceny.

(2) Any person who by means of a wilfully false statement or representation or by impersonation or other fraudulent device aids or abets in buying, selling, or in any other way disposing of the real property of a recipient of public assistance without
Penalty.

the consent of the director shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Amendment.

Sec. 42. Section 74.08.278, RCW, as derived from section 1, chapter 261, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:

In order to comply with federal statutes and regulations pertaining to federal matching funds and to provide for the prompt payment of initial grants and adjusting payments of grants the director is authorized to make provisions for the cash payment of assistance by the director or county administrators by the establishment of a central operating fund. The director may establish such a fund with the approval of the state auditor from moneys appropriated to the department for the payment of general assistance in a sum not to exceed one million dollars. Such funds shall be deposited as agreed upon by the director and the state auditor in accordance with the laws regulating the deposits of public funds. Such security shall be required of the depository in connection with the fund as the state treasurer may prescribe. Moneys remaining in the fund shall be returned to the general fund at the end of the biennium, or an accounting of proper expenditures from the fund shall be made to the state auditor. All expenditures from such central operating fund shall be reimbursed out of and charged to the proper program appropriated by the use of such forms and vouchers as are approved by the director of the department and the state auditor. Expenditures from such fund shall be audited by the director of the budget and the state auditor from time to time and a report shall be made by the state auditor and the director as are required by law.

Amendment.

Sec. 43. Section 74.04.150, RCW, as derived from section 10, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, as last amended by section 2, chapter 172, Laws of 1943, is amended to read as follows:
The state shall levy annually a tax not to exceed two mills upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the state for public assistance purposes.

Sec. 44. Section 74.12.130, RCW, as derived from section 6, chapter 114, Laws of 1937, as last amended by section 1, chapter 260, Laws of 1947, is amended to read as follows:

The department shall:

(1) Cooperate with the federal government, its agencies or instrumentalities, in developing, administering, and supervising a plan for establishing, extending aid to, and strengthening services for the protection and care of homeless, dependent, and neglected children, and children in danger of becoming delinquent;

(2) Accept custody of children and provide for the care of children in need of protective services, directly or through its agents, following, in general, the policy of using properly approved private agency services for the actual care and supervision of such children in so far as they are available, paying for care of such dependent children as are accepted by the department as eligible for support at a reasonable rate established by the department; and

(3) Receive and expend all funds made available by the federal government, the state or its political subdivisions for such purposes.

Sec. 45. Section 74.16.180, RCW, as derived from section 4, chapter 132, Laws of 1937, as last amended by section 15, chapter 166, Laws of 1949, is amended to read as follows:

The department may maintain or cause to be maintained, in cooperation with the division of vocational rehabilitation of the state board of vocational education, services for vocational aid and training the objects of which shall be:

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(1) To place blind persons in jobs and/or business enterprises in accordance with the abilities and interests of the applicant therefor;

(2) To teach blind persons trades or occupations which may be followed in their homes and to assist them in whatever manner may seem advisable in disposing of the products of their home industries;

(3) To establish and/or maintain one or more training schools and/or workshops to teach blind persons trades or occupations when such training is feasible and will contribute to the efficiency and/or self-support of such blind person and to devise means for the sale and distribution of the products thereof;

(4) To arrange for special education and/or training in the trades, business or professions under a vocational plan, and if the same cannot be obtained within the state arrangements shall be made for such purposes outside of the state. Living maintenance during the period of such education and/or training within or without the state shall be furnished where there is need;

(5) To aid individual blind persons or groups of blind persons to become self-supporting by furnishing materials and/or machinery to them, and/or by providing them with financial assistance to enable them to take advantage of all laws of the United States providing assistance and aid to the blind, in the form of matching funds, and also

(6) To provide home visitation and home teaching of subjects which will assist blind persons in the ease and enjoyment of daily living.

Sec. 46. Section 74.16.190, RCW, as derived from section 5, chapter 132, Laws of 1937, as last amended by section 1, chapter 75, Laws of 1939, is amended to read as follows:

The department may create an operating fund of fifteen thousand dollars from any money appropriated for the blind to be used to create a home indus-
tries revolving fund for the purpose of advancing the cost of production and wages for the blind engaged in industry under the supervision of the department and to promote the sale of articles produced by such industry. All moneys received from the sale of articles produced in industries of the blind under the supervision of the department shall be deposited in the home industries revolving fund.

Sec. 47. Chapter 243, Laws of 1951 (uncodified) is hereby repealed and the fund created thereby is hereby abolished. In the event that said fund contained any moneys, the same shall be transferred to the state general fund.

Sec. 48. The department of public assistance which is hereby created shall succeed to the rights and functions of the pre-existing department of social security.

Sec. 49. Section 43.18.040, RCW, as derived from section 12, chapter 11, Laws of 1937, is amended to read as follows:

The director of public assistance shall be the responsible state officer for the administration of, and the disbursement of all funds which may be received by the state in connection with, old age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, services for crippled children, child welfare services, vocational rehabilitation, and all other matters included in the federal social security act approved August 14, 1935, or as the same may be amended, excepting those required to be administered by the department of education or the state board of vocational education and those required to be administered and disbursed in connection with public health services such as communicable disease control, maternal and child health, sanitation, and vital statistics services.
He shall make such reports and render such accounting as may be required by the federal agency having authority in the premises.

Sec. 50. In furtherance of the policy of this state to cooperate with the federal government in the programs included in this act the director shall issue such rules and regulations as may become necessary to entitle this state to participate in federal matching funds unless the same be expressly prohibited by this act. Any section or provision of this act which may be susceptible to more than one construction shall be interpreted in favor of the construction most likely to satisfy federal laws entitling this state to receive federal matching funds for the various programs of public assistance.

Sec. 51. If any portion of the title, section, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word of this act for any reason shall be adjudged invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this act, but shall be confined in its operation or effect to the title, section, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or word of the act directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

It is hereby expressly declared that had any section or combination of sections, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or word or the application thereof as to any person or class of persons which may be declared invalid, been eliminated from the act at the time the same was considered, the act would have nevertheless been enacted with such portions eliminated.

Sec. 52. The following sections are repealed: Section 74.04.090, RCW, being section 1, chapter 172, Laws of 1943; section 74.04.100, RCW, being a part of section 8, chapter 216, Laws of 1939; section
74.04.110, RCW, being a part of section 8, chapter 216, Laws of 1939; section 74.04.130, RCW, being section 9, chapter 216, Laws of 1939; section 74.04.140, RCW, being section 11, chapter 180, Laws of 1937; section 74.04.160, RCW, being a part of section 2, chapter 172, Laws of 1943; section 74.04.170, RCW, being section 3, chapter 172, Laws of 1943; section 74.04.190, RCW, being section 13, chapter 216, Laws of 1939; section 74.04.220, RCW, being section 16, chapter 216, Laws of 1939; section 74.04.240, RCW, being section 18, chapter 216, Laws of 1939; section 74.04.255, RCW, being section 1, chapter 21, Laws of 1951; second extraordinary session; section 74.04.260, RCW, being section 20, chapter 216, Laws of 1939; section 74.04.320, RCW, being section 6, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.020, RCW, being section 7, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.050, RCW, being section 3, chapter 170, Laws of 1941; section 74.16.060, RCW, being section 11, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.070, RCW, being section 12, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.090, RCW, being section 14, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.100, RCW, being section 15, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.110, RCW, being section 16, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.130, RCW, being section 5, chapter 170, Laws of 1941; section 74.16.140, RCW, being section 18, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.150, RCW, being section 19, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.16.160, RCW, being section 20, chapter 132, Laws of 1937; section 74.12.020, RCW, being section 2, chapter 114, Laws of 1937; section 74.12.040, RCW, being section 9, chapter 114, Laws of 1937; section 74.12.050, RCW, being section 3, chapter 114, Laws of 1937; section 74.12.070, RCW, being section 10, chapter 114, Laws of 1937; section 74.12.080, RCW, being a part of section 12, chapter
SEC. 53. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing

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public institutions, and shall take effect April 1, 1953.

Passed the House March 3, 1953.
Passed the Senate March 9, 1953.
Approved by the Governor March 18, 1953.

CHAPTER 175.
[H. B. 380.]
TAXATION—LIMITATION ON LEVIES—FORTY MILL LIMIT.

An Act relating to property taxation; fixing rates of levy, and amending section 84.52.050, RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Section 84.52.050, RCW, as derived from chapter 23, Laws of 1951, 2nd Ex. Sess., is amended to read as follows:

Except as hereinafter provided, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state, municipal corporations, taxing districts and governmental agencies, now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed forty mills on the dollar of assessed valuation, which assessed valuation shall be fifty percent of the true and fair value of such property in money; and within and subject to the aforesaid limitation the levy by the state shall not exceed two mills to be used exclusively for the public assistance program of the state; the levy by any county shall not exceed eight mills; the levy by or for any school district shall not exceed fourteen mills: Provided, That the levy by or for any union high school district shall not exceed two-fifths of the maximum levy permissible for any school district without a vote of the electors thereof and the levy by or for any component dis-