

SEC. 8. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and shall take effect April 1, 1947. Effective immediately.

Passed the House March 9, 1947.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1947.

Permitted to become a law without the signature of the Governor.

BELLE REEVES,
Secretary of State.

CHAPTER 289.

[S. H. B. 397.]

PUBLIC WELFARE.

AN ACT relating to public welfare; defining terms; prescribing conditions and limitations upon grants of general assistance; prescribing duties of counties and certain county officers in connection therewith; changing the name of the Social Security Committee to Public Welfare Committee and the name of the Department of Social Security to the Department of Public Welfare and the name of the Director of the Department of Social Security to the Director of Public Welfare; amending section 1, chapter 216, Laws of 1939 (sec. 10007-101a, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 922-3, PPC); further amending said chapter by adding thereto three new sections to be designated sections 17-a, 17-b, and 17-c; repealing section 13 of chapter 1, Laws of 1941, as amended, (sec. 9998-46, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 921-25, PPC) and chapter 80, Laws of 1945 (sec. 10007-300, -301, and -302, Rem. Rev. Stat.; secs. 918-51, -53, -55, -57, PPC) and section 17a, chapter 216, Laws of 1939 as amended (sec. 10007-117c, Rem. Rev. Stat.; 922-36, PPC); making an appropriation; and declaring when this act shall take effect.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1, chapter 216, Laws of 1939 (sec. 10007-101a, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 922-3, PPC) is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. For the purposes of this act, unless otherwise clearly indicated by the context: Definitions.

The word "assistance" shall mean public aid to persons in need thereof for any cause, and shall in- "Assistance."

clude services, direct relief, work relief, medical and institutional care.

"Budgetary basis."

The term "budgetary basis" shall mean a basis taking into consideration an applicant's need and resources, and shall be measured in relation to a basic minimum family budget determined by the Department.

"Committee."

The word "committee" shall mean the Social Security Committee created by this act.

"Department."

The word "Department" shall mean the Department of Social Security.

"Director."

The word "Director" shall mean the Director of Social Security.

"Direct relief."

The term "direct relief" shall mean payment by cash or voucher to provide the necessities of life to a person and his dependents, and shall include materials furnished or services rendered for such purposes to such person and dependents in his own home.

"Federal-aid assistance."

The term "Federal-aid assistance" shall mean the specific categories of assistance for which provision is made in the Federal Social Security Act of August 14, 1935, including old-age assistance, aid to dependent children, services to crippled children, child welfare services, other handicapped persons, aid to the needy blind and any other category for which the Federal government provides or for which it may hereafter provide matching funds.

"General assistance."

The term "general assistance" shall mean assistance and/or service of any character provided to needy persons, not otherwise provided for, to the extent of their need and the availability of funds, including necessary medical, dental, optical, surgical, hospital and nursing care, drugs, medicines, artificial limbs, eyes, hearing aids and other needed appliances, and the funeral expenses of needy persons to the extent of one hundred dollars (\$100) in cases where the total funeral expenses do not exceed the

sum of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) exclusive of the cost of the burial plot.

The term "grant-in-aid" shall mean an allocation of public funds by the state to counties for public assistance purposes. "Grant-in-aid."

The term "institutional care" shall mean care provided by counties through hospitals, sanitoria and homes or farms. "Institutional care."

The term "public assistance" shall mean and include Federal-aid assistance and general assistance. "Public assistance."

The term "work relief" shall mean wages paid by a body politic or corporate to persons who are unemployed, or whose employment is inadequate to provide the necessities of life to themselves and dependents, out of money specifically appropriated or contributed for that purpose, for the performance of services or labor connected with work undertaken by such body independent of work under contract or for which an annual appropriation is made: *Provided*, That the expenditure of moneys made available for assistance purposes under this act in connection with work relief programs shall be limited to the payment of wages exclusively. "Work relief."

In the construction of words and phrases used in this act, the singular number shall include the plural, the masculine gender shall include both the feminine and neuter genders and the present tense shall include the past and future tenses, unless the context thereof shall clearly indicate to the contrary. Rule of construction.

SEC. 2. Section 17-a, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, as amended, is hereby repealed. Repeal.

SEC. 3. Chapter 216, Laws of 1939, as amended by chapter 128, Laws of 1941, and chapter 172, Laws of 1943, is further amended by adding thereto new sections to be designated sections 17-a, 17-b, and 17-c reading as follows:

Section 17-a. General assistance shall be granted under the provisions of this act on the basis of actual

Assistance based on need.

Appropriation.

Total six months amount.

Total proportions for remainder of biennium.

Reductions apply ratably to all grants.

Board to arrange for work relief and necessities.

Residence.

need, taking into account the income, resources and maintenance available to the individual from whatever source derived and his necessary expenditures, and the facts and circumstances existing in each case. There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State Department of Social Security the sum of twenty-four million dollars (\$24,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, to provide general assistance in accordance with the provisions of this act and other laws governing the matter: *Provided*, That the total obligations or payments made from this appropriation during the six months period immediately following the effective date of this act shall not exceed the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) and the total obligations or payments made during any succeeding three month period shall not exceed an amount equal to the proportion of the unobligated balance of this appropriation which said three month period bears to the remaining months in the biennium: *Provided further*, That any reduction in any grant to stay within the provisions hereof shall apply ratably to all grants of the same class.

It shall be the duty of the Board insofar as possible to arrange for work relief for all unemployed employables, and all persons whose employment is inadequate to provide the necessities of life to themselves and dependents, in municipal employment and public works of any kind or character and to credit to such workers reasonable wages for their time.

Section 17-b. No person shall be eligible for general assistance under the provisions of this act unless he shall have lived within the state for a period of three years immediately preceding the date of his application therefor: *Provided*, That the Board of County Commissioners shall have authority to develop policies and establish rules for adminis-

tering general assistance to needy persons in unusual or emergency circumstances.

Section 17-c. Any person who shall knowingly or willfully procure or attempt to procure directly or indirectly any allowance for assistance under this act, for or on account of a person not entitled thereto, or who shall knowingly or willfully pay or permit to be paid any such allowance to a person not entitled thereto, shall be guilty of misdemeanor.

Unlawful
acts.

SEC. 4. Chapter 80, Laws of 1945 (secs. 10007-300, -301, and -302, Rem. Rev. Stat.; secs. 918-51, -53, -55, and -57, PPC) and section 13, chapter 1, Laws of 1941, as amended, (sec. 9998-46, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 921-23, PPC) are hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. The "Social Security Committee" shall hereafter be known and officially designated as the "Public Welfare Committee" and the state "Department of Social Security" shall hereafter be known and officially designated as the state "Department of Public Welfare" and the Director thereof shall be known as the "Director of Public Welfare."

Names of
Committee
and Depart-
ment
changed.

SEC. 6. All applicants for or recipients of aid to dependent children grants, blind grants, and general assistance shall be entitled to a fair hearing under the terms and conditions established for fair hearings for Senior Citizens under Pierce's Perpetual Code 921-13-15-17, sections 7, 8, and 9, chapter 1, Laws of 1941, (sections 9998-40, 9998-41, and 9998-42, Remington's Revised Statutes).

Fair hearing.

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