

political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, or private nonprofit making corporations with respect to the determination of the extent and nature of disabilities, processing of referrals, provision of rehabilitation and other services provided for in this section, and also to contract with schools, hospitals and other agencies, and with doctors, nurses, technicians and other persons for training, physical restoration, transportation and other services authorized by this section.

Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Act effective immediately.

APPROVED—The 21st day of May, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER

No. 554

AN ACT

Amending the act of June twenty-four, one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 2051), entitled "An act relating to public assistance; providing for and regulating assistance to certain classes of persons designated and defined as dependent children, aged persons, blind persons and other persons requiring relief; providing for the administration of this act by the Department of Public Assistance and county boards of assistance hereby created for this purpose; authorizing the Department of Public Assistance to cooperate with, and to accept and disburse moneys received from, the United States Government for assistance to such persons; providing for the liquidation of the State Emergency Relief Board, Boards of Trustees of the Mothers' Assistance Fund, and Boards of Trustees of Pension Fund for the Blind; and repealing laws relating to mothers' assistance, pensions for the blind, old age assistance, and the State Emergency Relief Board," increasing monthly pension allowance and maximum income allowance, crediting encumbrances in realty valuation, and abolishing the sum of income and pension as a ceiling for pension receivable.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Public Assistance Law.

Section 1. Clause (c) of section nine, act of June twenty-four, one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 2051), known as the "Public Assistance Law," amended August twenty-two, one thousand nine hundred fifty-three (Pamphlet Laws 1361), is amended to read:

Clause (c), section 9, act of June 24, 1937, P. L. 2051, amended August 22, 1953, P. L. 1361, further amended.

Section 9. Eligibility for Assistance.—* * *

(c) Blind Persons. A blind person is defined as one who (1) is twenty-one years of age, or more, (2) has three-sixtieth or ten two-hundredths, or less, normal

vision, (3) is not receiving any other assistance during the period for which he is receiving assistance as a blind person, (4) is not an inmate of any prison, jail, insane asylum, or any other public reform or correctional institution. The pension of a blind person shall be [fifty dollars (\$50)] *sixty dollars (\$60)* per month: Provided, That any blind person with an actual income of [one thousand seven hundred sixteen dollars (\$1716)] *two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500)* or upwards and any blind person having (1) real property with an assessed valuation of over five thousand dollars (\$5000), or (2) personal property with an actual value of over five thousand dollars (\$5000), or (3) a combination of real and personal property with a total valuation of over five thousand dollars (\$5000), the valuation of the real property to be determined by its assessed valuation *minus encumbrances*, the valuation of the personal property to be determined by its actual value, is not entitled to such pension. The interest of a blind person in any property owned by the entireties shall be deemed to be a one-half interest: And provided further, That where a blind person has an income of less than [one thousand seven hundred sixteen dollars (\$1716)] *two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500)* per year, the pension shall be fixed in such amount so that the combined income and pension shall not exceed [one thousand seven hundred sixteen dollars (\$1716)] *two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500)* a year. No person shall be denied a pension because of the fact that he or she is not a citizen of the United States. In the event that any act of Congress providing Federal aid toward pension for the blind requires the recipients to be citizens, no such Federal aid moneys shall be expended in the payment of pensions to non-citizens, but such person shall receive pensions out of the moneys appropriated by this Commonwealth.

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Section 2. The sum of two million one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,150,000) is hereby appropriated to the Department of Public Assistance to be used for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.

Section 3. The provisions of this act shall become effective June 1, 1956.

APPROVED—The 21st day of May, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER