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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL**

**No. 551** Session of  
1961

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MESSRS. ROONEY, STAISEY, VAN SANT AND SESLER,  
IN PLACE, APRIL 24, 1961.

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MR. STAISEY, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
WELFARE, AS AMENDED, JUNE 7, 1961.

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**AN ACT**

Amending the act of June 24 1937 (P L 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

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through is to be omitted from bill. Underscoring indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

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 establishing the sum of income and pension as a ceiling for pension receivable and making an appropriation

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

1 Section 1 Clause (c) of section 9 act of June 24 1937 (P L 2051)  
2 known as the "Public Assistance Law" amended December 16 1959 (P  
3 L 1850) is amended to read

4 Section 9 Eligibility for Assistance \* \* \*

5 (c) Blind Persons A blind person is defined as one who (1) is twenty-  
6 one years of age or more (2) has three-sixtieth or ten two-hundredths  
7 or less normal vision (3) is not receiving any other assistance during  
8 the period for which he is receiving assistance as a blind person (4) is

1 not an inmate of any prison jail insane asylum or any other public reform  
2 or correctional institution The pension of a blind person shall be twenty  
3 dollars (\$70) per month Provided That any blind person with an actual  
4 income of two thousand eight hundred eighty dollars (\$2880) or upwards  
5 and any blind person having (1) real property with an assessed valua-  
6 tion of over [five thousand dollars (\$5000)] seven thousand five hundred  
7 dollars (\$7500) or (2) personal property with an actual value of over  
8 [five thousand dollars (\$5000)] seven thousand five hundred dollars  
9 (\$7500) or (3) a combination of real and personal property with a total  
10 valuation of over [five thousand dollars (\$5000)] seven thousand five  
11 hundred dollars (\$7500) the valuation of the real property to be deter-  
12 mined by its assessed valuation minus encumbrances the valuation of  
13 the personal property to be determined by its actual value is not en-  
14 titled to such pension The interest of a blind person in any property  
15 owned by the entireties shall be deemed to be a one-half interest [And  
16 provided further That where a blind person has an income of less than  
17 two thousand eight hundred eighty dollars (\$2880) per year the pension  
18 shall be fixed in such amount so that the combined income and pension  
19 shall not exceed two thousand eight hundred eighty dollars (\$2880) a  
20 year] No person shall be denied a pension because of the fact that he or

1 she is not a citizen of the United States In the event that any act of  
2 Congress providing Federal aid toward pension for the blind requires  
3 the recipients to be citizens no such Federal aid moneys shall be ex-  
4 pended in the payment of pensions to non-citizens but such person shall  
5 receive pensions out of the moneys appropriated by this Commonwealth

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 2 The sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOU-  
8 SAND DOLLARS (\$252,000) is hereby appropriated to the Department  
9 of Public Welfare to be used for the purpose of paying monthly pensions  
10 to the blind

11 Section 3 This act shall take effect January 1 1961

We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of  
Representatives.

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The ..... day of ..... A. D. 1961.

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Governor