

No. 677

## 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 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.

Public Assistance Law.

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

Clause (c), section 9, act of June 24, 1937, P. L. 2051, amended May 21, 1956, P. L. 1651, further amended.

Section 1. Clause (c) of section 9, act of June 24, 1937 (P. L. 2051), known as the "Public Assistance Law," amended May 21, 1956 (P. L. 1651), is amended to read:

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 [sixty dollars (\$60)] *seventy dollars (\$70)* per month: Provided, That any blind person with an actual income of [two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500)] *two thousand eight hundred eighty dollars (\$2880)* 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 [two

thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500)] *two thousand eight hundred eighty dollars (\$2880)* per year, the pension shall be fixed in such amount so that the combined income and pension shall not exceed [two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500)] *two thousand eight hundred eighty dollars (\$2880)* 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 three million one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$3,125,000) is hereby appropriated to the Department of Public Welfare to be used for the purpose of paying monthly pensions to the blind.

Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 1960. Effective date.

APPROVED—The 16th day of December, A. D. 1959.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE

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No. 678

AN ACT

Amending the act of June 4, 1937 (P. L. 1625), entitled "An act providing for the creation, maintenance and operation of a county employes' retirement system in counties of the third class; and imposing certain charges on counties," extending the provisions of the act to include certain per diem employes.

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

Section 1. Section 10, act of June 4, 1937 (P. L. 1625), entitled "An act providing for the creation, maintenance and operation of a county employes' retirement system in counties of the third class; and imposing certain charges on counties," amended May 18, 1945 (P. L. 688), is amended to read:

Section 10. Service Allowance.—In computing the length of service of a contributor for retirement purposes, full credit shall be given to each original member for each year of service rendered to the county prior to January first of the year the retirement system was established. This shall include the services of a county official whose compensation was in the form of fees

Third Class Counties: employes' retirement system.

Section 10, act of June 4, 1937, P. L. 1625, amended May 18, 1945, P. L. 688, further amended.

Credits for retirement allowance.