

No. 326, S.]

[Published June 30, 1951.]

**CHAPTER 432.**

AN ACT to amend 20.18 (4) and (5) (a), 49.18 (1) and (10), 49.21 (1), 49.38 (1) and 49.39; and to create 20.18 (14) and 49.395 of the statutes, relating to maximum amount of grant for old-age assistance and aid to the blind and making appropriations.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 20.18 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

20.18 (4) For state and federal aid to the blind \* \* \*, on July 1, \* \* \* 1951, \$348,000, and annually, beginning July 1, \* \* \* 1952, \$374,000, and in addition thereto all moneys received from the federal government for aid to the blind, to be expended according to the provisions of section 49.18 and section 49.40.

SECTION 2. 20.18 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

20.18 (5) (a) On July 1, \* \* \* 1951, \$12,074,000, and annually, beginning July 1, \* \* \* 1952, \$12,727,000, and in addition thereto all moneys received from the federal government to match expenditures of the state and its political subdivisions for state and federal aid for old-age assistance, to be allotted according to the provisions of section 49.38 and section 49.40.

SECTION 2a. 20.18 (14) of the statutes is created to read:

20.18 (14) OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE; ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENT TO CERTAIN COUNTIES. Annually beginning July 1, 1951, \$350,000 for allotment to counties upon certification of the state department of public welfare as provided in section 49.395.

SECTION 3. 49.18 (1) and (10) of the statutes are amended to read:

49.18 (1) Any needy person who is blind shall receive aid from the county of his residence as provided in this section. The amount granted shall be determined on the basis of need taking into consideration all income and resources as well as ordinary and special expenses incidental to blindness. The maximum aid per month shall not exceed \* \* \* \$75.

(10) The county treasurer and county agency administrator of each county shall monthly certify under oath to the department in such manner as the department prescribes, the claim of the county for state and federal reimbursement under this section, and if the department approves it, it shall certify to the director of budget and accounts for reimbursement to the county 30 per cent of the approved amount paid by the county for blind aid pursuant to this section, plus federal aid received for such \* \* \* expenditure plus 30 per cent of any amount paid to an eligible recipient in excess of the amount which the federal government will take into account in making reimbursement but not in excess of \$75, as provided in section 49.18 (1). If the total amount due all counties exceeds the sum appropriated by section 20.18 (4), the appropriation shall be prorated by the department among the counties according to the amounts due them. To facilitate prompt reimbursement, the certification of the department may be based upon the certified statements of the county officers, provided that any necessary audit adjustments for

any month of current or prior fiscal years may be made and included in subsequent certifications. The director of budget and accounts shall draw his warrant forthwith for reimbursement to the respective counties in accordance with the certification of the department.

SECTION 4. 49.21 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

49.21 (1) Any person who complies with the provisions of sections 49.20 to 49.38 shall be entitled to financial assistance in old age. The amount granted shall be determined by a budget in which all income and resources as well as expense shall be considered, and the aid per month shall not exceed \* \* \* \$75.

SECTION 5. 49.38 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

49.38 (1) The county treasurer and county agency administrator shall monthly certify under oath, to the department, in such manner as the department prescribes, the claim of the county for state and federal reimbursement of aid paid under sections 49.20 to 49.38. If the department is satisfied that the amount claimed has actually been expended in accordance with sections 49.20 to 49.38, it shall certify to the director of budget and accounts 30 per cent of the approved amount paid by each county plus federal aid received for such expenditures *plus 30 per cent of any amount paid to an eligible recipient in excess of the amount which the federal government will take into account in making reimbursement but not in excess of \$75, as provided in section 49.21 (1).* To facilitate prompt reimbursement the certification of the department may be based upon the certified statements of the county officers, provided that any necessary audit adjustments for any month of current or prior fiscal years may be included in subsequent certifications.

SECTION 5a. 49.39 of the statutes is amended to read:

49.39 Any county which is financially unable to fully perform its duties under section 49.18 to 49.38 and 49.61 *after having received payments under sections 20.18 (14) and 49.395*, may make application to the department for financial assistance to enable it to perform such duties. Before making a determination upon the application, the department shall hold hearings, investigate and obtain or receive proof as to total indebtedness, and tax levy limitations, cash on hand, anticipated revenues from all sources, reasonableness of amounts of its expenditures and necessity therefor, tax delinquencies, reasonableness of valuation for taxation purposes and such other factors not enumerated which are probative on the applicant's financial condition. If the department is satisfied that the applicant's financial condition is such that it cannot provide money for such forms of public assistance, the department shall certify to the director of budget and accounts for payment to the applicant out of the appropriations provided by section 20.18 (9) an amount which will, together with money that the applicant can provide, be sufficient to enable the applicant to properly perform its duties. No such payment shall be made unless the department's certification is approved by the emergency board. The department shall fix the time and place of hearing, issue subpoenas, take testimony and make reasonable rules and regulations which are necessary to enable it to effectively perform its duties under this section.

SECTION 5b. 49.395 of the statutes is created to read:

49.395 ADDITIONAL AID TO CERTAIN COUNTIES. Where the required total mill levy in any county for costs of old-age assistance including payments under section 49.40 made in behalf of such recipients exceeds the average mill levy (the mill levy for all counties being based on the total valuation of personal and real property in such counties as determined by the department of taxation pursuant to section 70.57) for such welfare purposes in all counties in the state by 50 per cent or more but is insufficient to pay the county's share of the cost thereof, the state shall bear 60 per cent of such costs in that county which are in excess of the amount which would be produced by a levy in the county of one and one-half times the average state mill levy for such welfare purposes. The department shall certify to the director of budget and accounts for payment to the counties out of the appropriations provided by section 20.18 (14) such amounts as they shall be entitled to receive under the terms of this section. The department may so certify on an estimated basis subject to audit and adjustment at the end of each year.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 1951.

Approved June 26, 1951.