

Initiative Measure No. 184

BALLOT TITLE

AN ACT Revising the state public assistance laws and returning the public assistance medical program to the Department of Social Security.

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

SECTION 1. Title. This act shall be known, and may be cited as the "Citizens' Security Act of 1952 of the State of Washington."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Intent. The State and its people believe that all parts of our community must be healthy, and that the assurance of freedom from want and of freedom from fear on the part of its senior citizens, its blind, its dependent children, its physically disabled, and its unemployables is essential to the welfare of all.

Also, as fair return for the toil and taxes levied from each senior citizen during a long and productive lifetime, and upon which the State's present prosperity is largely built, the State of Washington and its people accept the solemn responsibility of assuring all senior citizens a fair and reasonable American standard of living.

They therefore propose to take the fullest possible advantage of the provisions of the Federal Social Security Act in order to provide grants to senior citizens and other persons covered by this Act by enacting laws that shall be as liberal as is consistent with eligibility for receipt of Federal matching funds thereunder.

It is the intent of this act to prohibit the following provisions: a lien on recipients' homes, forcing relatives to support their elders under threat of legal coercion, publicity of confidential welfare records, and rateable or percentage reductions. This act will place the medical program back in the Department of Social Security. Health and welfare are two aspects of the same problem and should not be separated in two state departments.

SEC. 3. Section 3, Chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 1, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3. *Definitions.* For the purpose of this act, and unless

the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Applicant" shall mean any person applying for, or on whose behalf application has been made for, a grant under the provisions of this act.

(b) "Recipient" shall mean any person receiving a grant or currently approved to receive a grant at any future date.

(c) "Grant" or "Senior Citizen Grant" shall mean the funds, federal and state, made available to recipients under the terms of this act.

(d) "Senior Citizen" shall mean a person eligible for a grant under the terms of section 4 of this act, but shall not be construed as limiting eligibility to citizens of the United States or of the state of Washington, nor as limiting any rights provided under section 16 hereof or under any other section or part of this act.

(e) "Department" shall mean the department or agency designed to administer the provisions of this act, and the department shall be called the "Department of Social Security."

(f) "Director" shall mean the administrative head of the Department of Social Security.

SEC. 4. Section 4, Chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 1, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4. *Eligibility.* A Senior Citizen grant shall be awarded to any person who:

(a) Has attained the age of sixty-five (65). In the event that the Federal government shall lower the age limit at which Federal matching funds will be granted for Senior Citizen grants, the State shall award Senior Citizen grants to persons of that age on the same conditions and terms as set out in the remainder of this Act for Senior Citizens who have attained the age of sixty-five.

(b) In addition the requirement set out in paragraph (a) above, a person to qualify for a Senior Citizen grant must also prove that he has been a resident of the State of Washington for at least five years within the last ten: and

(c) Is not an inmate of a public institution of a custodial, correctional or curative character; provided that this shall not prevent the Department from paying a grant to meet the incidental and personal needs of a person who is an inmate of such an institution; and

(d) Has not made a voluntary assignment or transfer of property or cash for the purposes of qualifying for a Senior Citizen grant; and

(e) Requires such grant in order to maintain for himself and his dependents a standard of living, consistent with American concepts of decency and health.

(f) Subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) of Section 4 above shall also apply equally in determining eligibility for Aid to Blind grants. Subsections (c), (d) and (e) shall also apply equally in determining eligibility for Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to Unemployables.

Sec. 5. Chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as amended by the addition thereto of Section 4, Chapter 1, Laws of 1951, and Section 5, Chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 1, Laws of 1951, are amended and revised to read as follows:

Section 5-1. *Determination of Amount of Grant.*

(a) The Department shall determine the money cost of a standard of living, including the budget cost of food, clothing, shelter, and such other items as are necessary for an adequate standard of living, and shall establish a budget based thereon. Such living cost studies shall be renewed or revised at least semi-annually, and new standards of assistance, for determining budgets of need, based upon these living cost studies, shall be issued semi-annually.

The budget shall include the individual cost of basic items essential to the maintenance of the Senior

Citizen, and shall also include those items which, experience has shown or may show, are required for the maintenance of certain Senior Citizens and are consistent with the actual individual needs in order that a standard of living consistent with decency and health may be maintained.

This subsection shall also apply equally in determining eligibility for and the amount of Aid to Blind grants, Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to the Unemployables.

(b) In no event shall the minimum standard, as determined, total less than \$75.00 per month for an individual; except that the figure of \$75.00 per month shall be adjusted semi-annually in accordance with the change in the cost of living as expressed by the Consumers' Price Index for moderate income families in Seattle, Washington, as set forth in the most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor available on February 1 and August 1 of each year. Such adjustment shall reflect the actual percentage increase or decrease from January 1, 1953. At no time shall the minimum standard of living for an individual be less than \$75.00. In case the Consumers' Price Index for Seattle is discontinued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor, a comparable index for another city or other cities or the United States Index shall be used.

This subsection shall also apply equally in determining eligibility for and the amount of Aid to Blind grants.

This subsection shall not be construed to establish this \$75.00 minimum standard for each recipient of Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to Unemployables.

(c) The Senior Citizen's grant shall be that amount required by an eligible applicant or recipient over and above his actual income and resources, which is necessary in order for such Senior Citizen, and his dependents, to achieve an adequate standard of living.

This subsection shall also apply

equally in determining eligibility for and the amount of Aid to Blind grants, Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to Unemployables.

(d) In no event shall the grant for an individual Senior Citizen, whether living alone or in some joint living arrangement, and found to be without any resources or income, be less than \$75.00 per month.

This subsection shall also apply equally in determining eligibility for and the amount of Aid to Blind grants.

This subsection, however, shall not apply to Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to Unemployables. In computing grants to two or more recipients or applicants in those categories, joint living arrangements may be considered and the grants may, thus be computed on a family basis.

(e) The individual Senior Citizen's grant shall be determined by an analysis of each such citizen's requirements (including the requirements of his dependents) with regard to and in comparison with the individual items of the budget, and the determined grant shall include an amount adequate to meet such required items. Upon the awarding of a grant, the Senior Citizen shall not be accountable with respect to the expenditure thereof.

This subsection shall also apply equally in determining eligibility for and the amount of Aid to Blind grants, Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to the Unemployables.

(f) In determining the grant of any applicant for or recipient in any category of public assistance, there shall be deducted from the sum representing his budgetary requirements, his actual income and resources, determined in accordance with Section 5-2 hereof.

Section 5-2. Determination of Income and Resources.

(a) Actual income shall mean net income in cash and kind available to applicant or recipient, the receipt of which is regular and predictable enough to afford security so that the applicant or recipient may

rely upon it to contribute appreciably toward meeting his needs; except that one-half of all individual current earnings up to a monthly total of \$50.00 shall be exempt from inclusion in actual determined income, if the Federal Social Security laws are amended to so permit.

(b) Resources shall mean any asset which may be applied toward meeting the needs of an applicant or recipient, including real and personal property holdings contributing toward the maintenance of the applicant or recipient or representing investments or savings which may be drawn upon for maintenance purposes, excluding therefrom:

(1) Insurance policies, the cash surrender value of which does not exceed \$500 for a single person or \$1,000 for an assistance unit.

(2) Cash or its equivalent not to exceed \$200 for an individual or \$400 for an assistance unit, or marketable securities of such value.

(3) Personal effects, clothing, furniture, and household equipment.

(4) A motor vehicle actually used for the transportation of applicant or recipient, or required for the transportation of said applicant or recipient or his dependents.

(5) A home, homestead, or place of residence wherein applicant or recipient or his dependents actually reside.

(c) The proceeds from the sale or exchange of items enumerated in subsections (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5), of subsection (b) of this Section 5-2 shall not, to the extent that such proceeds are used within 90 days for the purchase of property excluded under said subsections, be considered a resource rendering applicant or recipient ineligible for a grant.

(d) The ability of relatives or friends of the applicant or recipient to contribute to the support of said applicant or recipient shall not be considered a resource and shall in no way affect eligibility.

(e) Payments received by the applicant or recipient of Old Age and Survivors Insurance shall not be considered income within the mean-

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ing of Section 5-2(a), but shall be considered a resource within the meaning of Section 5-2(b) (2), whether such payment represents one month's entitlement or whether it is a lump sum payment representing more than one month's entitlements.

(f) All subsections, and numbered paragraphs within said subsections shall apply equally to all categories of public assistance.

Section 5-3. *Payment of Grant.*

Grants shall be awarded on a uniform state-wide basis to each eligible applicant or recipient for the purpose of assisting him to achieve a reasonable American standard of living, provided:

(a) Upon the determination or redetermination of the grant payable in accordance with Section 5-1 herein, the Department shall inform the Senior Citizen of the amount of the grant and the basis on which it is determined.

This subsection shall also apply equally to applicants or recipients of Aid to Blind grants, Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to Unemployables.

(b) Upon approval of the application for a Senior Citizen grant, the grant shall be paid as of the date of application, except that in the case of an applicant not yet 65, such applicant may apply 30 days in advance of reaching his 65th birthday, and if found eligible his grant shall be paid commencing on his 65th birthday.

(c) A senior citizen in a County hospital, infirmary, sanitarium, or nursing home, whose general subsistence is provided for, but whose needs of a personal or incidental character are not provided for, the Department shall award a grant to meet his needs of a personal or incidental character.

This subsection shall also apply equally to applicants or recipients of Aid to Blind grants, Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, or grants to Unemployables.

(d) Payments shall be made in the actual amounts of grants as determined in accordance with the standards herein prescribed, and

shall not be modified or redetermined upon the basis of facts, matters, or incidents irrelevant to this determination. This subsection shall apply so long as any funds shall remain subject to distribution by the Department.

This subsection shall also apply equally in determining eligibility for and the amount of Aid to Blind grants, Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to Unemployables.

(e) The Department shall not disclose the identity of individual applicants or recipients of public assistance except in an action of a criminal or civil nature brought against a person for obtaining or trying to obtain a public assistance grant contrary to law.

SEC. 6. Section 15, Chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as amended by Section 7, Chapter 1, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:

Section 15 (a). In addition to Senior Citizen grants, each recipient who is in need of medical or dental or other care to restore his health, or requires medical assistance in order to prevent or delay the onset of illness or physical disability or deterioration, shall receive:

(1) Medical and dental care by a practitioner of any of the healing arts licensed by the State of Washington, said practitioner to be of recipient's own choice.

(2) Nursing care in recipient's home and hospital care as prescribed by recipient's doctor, and ambulance service.

(3) Medicine, drugs, optical supplies, glasses, dentures, medical and pharmaceutical supplies, artificial limbs, hearing aids, and other appliances prescribed as necessary:

Provided: that when Federal matching funds become available for this program, it shall be the duty of the State to accept such matching funds. Until such time, this section shall be financed by State and County funds.

(b) The administration of the provisions of subsection (a) of this Section shall be by the State Department of Social Security.

(c) The Governor shall appoint a Medical Council composed of 6 representatives of the healing arts

and allied professions, and 6 representatives of the public and the recipients. This Council shall assist and advise the Department in formulating policies, establishing standards and rules and regulations. The members of this Council shall serve for a term of four years. Not more than one member shall be from any one County. The Council shall meet once every four months and oftener if necessary upon call of the Director of the Department. The members of the council shall receive the statutory per diem and actual and necessary traveling expenses when engaged in the activities of the council.

(d) The services available in this Section shall also be equally available to recipients of Aid to Blind grants, Aid to Dependent Children grants, Disability Assistance grants, and grants to Unemployables.

SEC. 7. Prohibition Against Liens on Property. Grants awarded an applicant of any category of public assistance under the laws of the State of Washington shall not be recoverable as a debt due the State, except where such funds have been received by the recipient contrary to law, or by fraud or deceit.

SEC. 8. Funeral Expenses. Upon the death of any recipient of any category of public assistance, funeral expenses in the sum of \$150 shall be paid by the Department toward the total cost of the funeral.

SEC. 9. Section 16, Chapter 6, Laws of 1949, as amended by Section 8, Chapter 1, Laws of 1951, is amended to read as follows:

Section 16 (a). The provisions of Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 14 shall apply equally in all categories of public assistance.

(b) The Department shall establish residence requirements for Unemployables, but in no event shall

the Department impose a requirement of longer than one year's residence in this State, and shall have the power to make special provisions for emergency cases where the applicant for a grant to Unemployables has less than one year's residence.

SEC. 10. If any portion, section, subsection, or clause of this Act shall be declared or found to be invalid by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such adjudication shall not affect the remainder of this Act. If any plan of administration of this Act submitted to the Federal Security Agency shall be found to be not in conformity with the Federal Act by reason of any conflict of any portion, section, subsection, or clause, such conflicting portion, section, subsection, or clause of this Act is hereby declared to be inoperative to the extent that it is so in conflict, and such determination shall not affect the remainder of this Act.

SEC. 11. The Legislature shall appropriate such funds as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act; in the event the Legislature shall fail to appropriate such funds, the provisions of Section 5-3 (d) shall nevertheless apply; and no provision of Chapter 196, Laws of 1941, or of Section 8, Chapter 216, Laws of 1939, or any other law, shall be construed to permit the department to make rateable reductions from assistance grants.

SEC. 12. This act shall take effect January 1, 1953, and grants hereunder shall be paid as of this date.

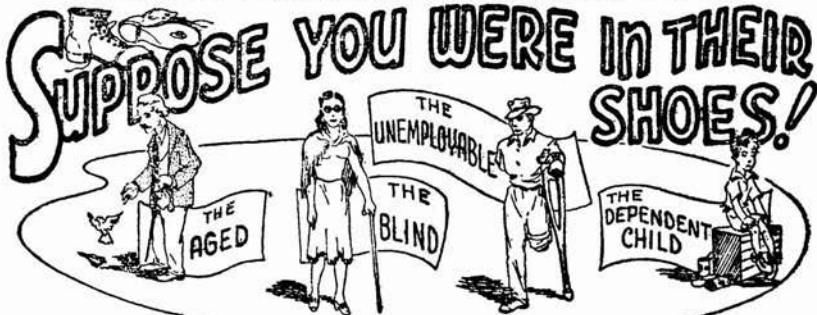
SEC. 13. Any provisions of Section 1, Chapter 216, Laws of 1939, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 289, Laws of 1947, being in conflict with this act, are hereby repealed; Section 7, Chapter 170, Laws of 1941, is hereby repealed; all other acts or portions of acts in conflict herewith, including but not limited to Section 9, Chapter 1, Laws of 1951, are hereby repealed.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State April 3, 1952.

E. A. ...
Secretary of State.

ARGUMENT FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 184



184 PROVIDES...

MEDICAL CARE • BACK TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT WHERE IT BELONGS.



★
A \$75 FLOOR UNDER THE SENIOR CITIZEN AND THE BLIND GRANTS.

★
INCOME AND RESOURCES ARE ALWAYS DEDUCTED FROM THE RECIPIENTS BUDGET.



★
PROHIBITS LIENS ON HOMES AND THE RELATIVES RESPONSIBILITY.

★
SETS NO CEILING ON THE VALUE OF EITHER HOMES OR AUTOMOBILES.



★
OUTLAWNS CARPETBAGGERS—
RECIPIENTS MUST HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS FOR FIVE OF THE LAST TEN YEARS.

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE TO REPEAL 178

ELLA N. KEHR, Bellingham
C. S. OSBURNSEN, Vancouver
W. F. BOETTCHER, Everett
FLORENCE E. GEPHART, Tacoma

JOHN C. WALKER, Longview
GEORGE D. CALLANAN, Gig Harbor
A. H. MARTIN, Yakima
VERA KEATING, Sec.-Treas., Tacoma

COMMITTEE OFFICE—401 Bernice Bldg., Tacoma 2, Wash.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—22.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State April 3, 1932.

EARL COE,
Secretary of State

ARGUMENT AGAINST INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 184

VOTE "NO"

on INITIATIVE 184

VOTE "NO"

Initiative 184 stands on the ballot as a **threat** to the present social security program and to the whole state financial structure which supports welfare payments.

Initiative 184 is the 1952 model of Initiative 176, the Washington Pension Union proposal which was repudiated by a 3-1 vote of the people in 1950. Initiative 184 is **DEFECTIVE, UNNECESSARY** and **HIGHLY DANGEROUS** legislation:

DEFECTIVE because, written carelessly and in haste, it fails to comply with important federal and state laws dealing with Aid to the Blind, Old Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Assistance.

UNNECESSARY because the 1953 Legislature will have before it a comprehensive plan for improving our welfare system, based on extensive studies by the bi-partisan Legislative Council.

DANGEROUS to the uninterrupted continuance of benefit payments, to the tax economy of the state, to schools and other vital institutions dependent on the state for financial support.

Initiative 184 would wipe out the present welfare law. It would be frozen into law for two long years,

beyond the power of the Legislature to correct its errors and inequities.

Initiative 184 would increase present welfare costs by almost 50 per cent. It would require immediate and substantial increases in state taxes, even if appropriations for schools and other vital programs were cut to the barest minimum. Only a heavy increase in the state sales tax would offer sufficient revenue in 1953 to meet the huge cost of Initiative 184, estimated at \$255 million for the biennium, compared to the present budget of \$174 million.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE STUDIED OUR WELFARE PROBLEM—INCLUDING MANY WHO HAVE SUPPORTED INITIATIVES IN THE PAST—NOW SAY:

"LEAVE THIS ISSUE TO THE LEGISLATURE."

Scores of organizations have taken this stand, including the **Washington State Association of the Blind**, the **Fraternal Order of Eagles**, the **Washington Association for Social Welfare**, the **Washington State Townsend Council**, the **Washington Conference on State Finance**, the **bi-partisan Legislative Council**, **leaders of both major political parties**, and many others.

The public interest demands that the 1953 Legislature be free to deal with social security, and not have its hands tied by another welfare initiative.

Initiative 184 is **defective, unnecessary and dangerous legislation**.

Initiative 184 would prevent effective action by the 1953 Legislature on public welfare.

VOTE "NO" on INITIATIVE 184

(Signed) WILLARD W. GOARD, Chairman
**Committee for Legislative Responsibility
on Public Welfare and**
President, Washington State Association
of the Blind
4735 11th Avenue, N.E., Seattle.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State August 4, 1952.

EARL COE,
Secretary of State.