

State of Iowa

1934

A SUMMARY OF  
**The Iowa Old Age  
Assistance Act**

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OLD AGE ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
Des Moines

## THE IOWA OLD AGE ASSISTANCE ACT

With the passage of Senate File 42 by the Forty-fifth General Assembly in extraordinary session, Iowa joined with many other states in the establishment of an old age pension system.

The Iowa law sets up what might be termed an old-age "insurance" or "annuity" system, for like an insurance policy, the statute stands as a protection against want and suffering to those eligible after the age of 65. As in the case of insurance, the insured forfeits his right to the benefits of the law by being delinquent for more than three years in the payment of the supporting head tax, \$2.00 per year (\$1.00 for 1934), which is the equivalent of an annual premium.

The provisions of the act may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. An old age pension is a monthly cash amount paid to deserving, needy and aged persons.

2. The maximum monthly payment per person is \$25.00.

3. To qualify, the applicant for an old age pension shall be 65 years of age or older; shall have been a citizen of the United States for 15 years, a resident of Iowa for 10 years and a resident of the county from which he makes application for at least two years; shall not have a reasonably certain and annual income of more than \$465.00 (including gifts of \$100.00); shall not be an inmate of any jail or penal institution at the time of making application; and shall not be more than three years delinquent in the payment of any of the annual head taxes heretofore described.

4. Application shall be made to the Old Age Assistance Board of the respective counties.

5. The old age pension system is administered by a bipartisan commission of three members known as the Old Age Assistance Commission who shall serve on a per diem basis. The members of the commission are Mrs. E. R. Meredith of Ames, A. L. Urick of Des Moines and John F. Porterfield of Hamburg.

6. The state office is in the direct and active charge of the superintendent, Byron G. Allen of Pocahontas, who was selected by the above described commission. His salary is \$3,000.00.

7. The county boards will be bipartisan, the members of which shall be named by the board of supervisors of the respective counties and the ex-officio member shall be the overseer of the

poor. The members of the county board, one of whom shall be a woman, will be entitled only to traveling expenses.

8. The applications are made to the county boards but final approval rests with the state commission.

9. The \$2.00 per year head tax will be paid by all persons 21 years of age or older, except the payment due on or before July 1, 1934, which is \$1.00 per person.

10. The law makes it mandatory for the employer to assist in collecting the head tax and he is empowered to withhold the amount of the tax from the salary or wages of the employee. Furthermore, the employer is liable in case the employee is found in arrears in his payments of the tax.

11. The head tax is collected like and in lieu of poll taxes and accrues to the credit of the State Old Age Assistance Fund.

12. If the beneficiary of the pension is the owner of real estate or other property, said estate accrues to the benefit of the State Old Age Assistance Fund upon the death of the surviving husband, wife or other dependent, up to and including the amount of benefit received, plus interest. The taking of title prior to the giving of benefits is optional and not obligatory with the commission.

13. The certificate entitling a person to receive an old age pension must be renewed annually.

14. A person, who has been rejected for a pension, may re-apply 12 months from the date of the rejection.

15. The act will not be fully effective until July 1, 1935, but where extreme need is shown, pensions may be paid, beginning November 1, 1934.

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