

44:4-1 et seq.

March 12, 1970

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF R.S. 44:4-1 et seq.  
(Settlement and relief of poor)

For background on all poor law legislation in New Jersey,  
see:

J361.6 Stanton, Martin W.  
S792 History of public poor relief in  
New Jersey, 1609-1934. DOES NOT CIRCULATE

COPY NO. 3

Report which recommended this legislation:

974.90 N.J. Pension Survey Commission (1930-31).  
P418 Reports 1-5.  
1931

L. 1931, Chapter 373 - A318

Introduced February 10 by Basile.  
(Companion bill to A316 and A317).  
(A316 died, A317 became Chapter 219 of 1931).  
Bill had statement (copy enclosed).  
March 2 - Reported with Committee amendments.  
April 15 - Amended.  
April 15 - Lost in Assembly.  
April 20 - Reconsidered, passed in Assembly.  
April 21 - Passed in Senate.  
April 28 - Approved.

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6 of any alleged insane, epileptic, feeble-minded, idiotic, or other dependent person  
7 under the provisions of any existing statutes or under any statute relating to the  
8 welfare of children or to provide home life for dependent children, except that, the  
9 functions and powers heretofore vested in and the duties required of and heretofore  
10 exercised by the overseer of the poor under the provisions of any existing statutes,  
11 are transferred to, vested in, and shall be exercised by the director of welfare under  
12 the direction of the county welfare board.

1 70. Any part or parts of this act which may be found to be invalid or  
2 unconstitutional shall be severable, and the remainder of the act shall stand, and  
3 the provisions contained in this act shall not be construed to be exclusive and shall  
4 not be construed to repeal other provisions of the law not inconsistent herewith.  
5 Any particular grant of power contained in this act shall be held to be in specifica-  
6 tion but not in limitation of general powers.

1 71. Nothing in this act, however, shall operate to repeal or nullify the provis-  
2 ions of an act entitled "An act regulating the employment, tenure and discharge of  
3 certain officers and employees of this State and of the various counties and munici-  
4 palities thereof, and providing for a civil service commission and defining its powers  
5 and duties," approved April tenth, one thousand nine hundred and eight, and the  
6 acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof.

1 72. This act shall take effect January second, one thousand nine hundred and  
2 thirty-two.

44: 4-1

1931

A 318

STATEMENT

This is the proposed revision of the present law for the settlement and relief of  
the poor as recommended by the State Pension Survey Commission to the present ses-  
sion of the Legislature. The revision is designed to set up uniform county adminis-  
trative units of dependency relief under the denomination of county welfare boards  
throughout the State, in line with the action taken in many other states, the commis-  
sion being convinced that such is the only practical method by which poor relief can

be administered consistently, uniformly and adequately throughout the State. Such a recommendation is also included in the report of the "Commission to Investigate County and Municipal Taxation and Expenditures" in the interest of economy and efficiency of operation. Under this plan of administration, the responsibilities, functions and duties of the office of overseers of the poor will be taken over by the county welfare board in its jurisdiction, and the county welfare houses under the supervision of such county welfare boards would replace municipal almshouses and poor houses.

The above proposed revision also eliminates complication and apparent impractical methods of administrative procedure.

The obvious necessity of the proposed change to promote uniformity, economy and adequacy of poor relief and administration in New Jersey is readily discernible from the context of Report Number One, Part Two, of the State Pension Survey Commission, which sponsors the above legislation.