

February 8, 1951.
Social Security.

House File 373

By VOIGTMANN, OBERMAN, PALMER,
McFARLANE

Passed House, Date

Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....

Passed Senate, Date

Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....

Approved

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend and revise section two hundred forty-nine point thirty-one (249.31), Code 1950, relating to county convalescent and nursing facilities.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. Section two hundred forty-nine point thirty-one
2 (249.31), Code 1950, is amended, revised and codified to read
3 as follows:

4 "Any recipient who is a resident in any charitable, benevolent
5 or fraternal institution or county owned and operated facility
6 for the provision of nursing or convalescent care, may expend
7 a part of the assistance paid him under the provisions of this
8 chapter toward defraying the actual expenses of his residence
9 in such institution, provided that the state board has approved
10 and that it and its agents are permitted freely to visit and
11 inspect such institution and, provided the charge shall not be
12 so much as to deprive said recipient and inmate of such cash
13 as he needs for necessities and incidentals not furnished by
14 said institution. With respect to the county facilities referred
15 to above it shall be the duty of the state board of health to

- 16 cooperate fully with the state welfare department in the
17 establishment of standards of approvability and in providing
18 inspection service.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 373

The purpose of this bill is to make it possible for counties now suffering from severe shortages of private nursing home facilities to remodel and improve existing county home facilities for nursing and convalescent care if they wish to do so at their own expense in order to relieve their situations.

Such counties are now effectively deterred from making their facilities available to old age assistance cases in actual need of such care by the fact that they must, on admission of the patient, cancel his entire old age assistance grant and assume full responsibility for all support and care at county expense alone.

The plan is simply to enable Iowa to employ the method already adopted by Illinois and numerous other states to alleviate the pressure of a steadily increasing ratio of invalid aged persons to the rest of the population on available nursing and convalescent home facilities.

In 1934 when tax-supported facilities were excluded in the original old age assistance law private facilities were abundantly available. They are now in very serious shortage in all counties and the shortage is steadily becoming more critical.