

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 5

RELIEF OF POOR VETERANS

Sec.

- 151. Inmates of Veterans Administration Center at Togus.
- 152. Veterans relieved not considered paupers.
- 153. Burial expenses.
- 154. —Reimbursement of municipalities by State.

§ 151. Inmates of Veterans Administration Center at Togus

1. Settlement. Inmates of the Veterans Administration Center at Togus, in the County of Kennebec, and persons subject to the rules and regulations thereof or receiving rations therefrom have their settlement in the respective towns in which they had a legal settlement when their connection with said Veterans Administration Center commenced, so long as such connection continues therewith.

2. Reimbursement. If a town furnishes relief to any such person mentioned in this section, who becomes a pauper after his connection with said Veterans Administration Center has ceased, having no legal settlement in the State, or to his family, the State shall reimburse such town for the relief furnished, to such an amount as the Department of Health and Welfare adjudges to have been necessarily expended therefor.

R.S.1954, c. 94, §§ 6, 7.

§ 152. Veterans relieved not considered paupers

No soldier, sailor or marine who served in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States in the War of 1861 or in the War with Spain, and no male or female veteran who served in World Wars I or II or the Korean Campaign, and who has received an honorable discharge from said service, and who has or may become dependent upon any town shall be considered a pauper or be subject to disfranchisement for that cause; but the time during which said soldier, sailor or marine is so dependent shall not be included in the period of residence necessary to change his settlement. Overseers of the poor shall not have authority to remove to or support in the poorhouse any such dependent soldier, sailor or marine or his family. The word "family" here used shall be held to include the soldier, sailor or marine, his wife, his unremar-

ried widow, not previously divorced, his surviving unmarried minor children, such other surviving unmarried children who by reason of mental incapacity or physical disability are unable to provide for themselves, his unmarried minor children living with him and dependent upon him for support and such other unmarried children of his dependent upon him for support who by reason of mental incapacity or physical disability are unable to provide for themselves; but the town of his settlement shall support them at his own home in the town of his settlement or residence or in such suitable place other than the poorhouse as the overseers of the town of his settlement may deem right and proper. The words "soldier, sailor or marine" here used shall be held to include male and female veterans. In case of violation of this section the overseers of the poor shall be subject to a fine of \$25; and for every day they allow them to remain in such poorhouse, after reasonable notice, they shall be subject to a further fine of \$5 a day, to be recovered by complaint or indictment. This section shall not be so construed as to deprive overseers of the poor of any right to remove and support such dependent soldier, sailor or marine and his family in the town of his settlement as provided by law.

R.S.1954, c. 94, § 10; 1957, c. 246.

§ 153. Burial expenses

Whenever any person who has served in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States and was honorably discharged therefrom shall die, being at the time of his death a resident of this State and in destitute circumstances, the State, through the Department of Veterans Services, shall pay the necessary expenses of his burial; or whenever the widow of any person who served in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States and was honorably discharged therefrom shall die, being at the time of her death a resident of this State and being in destitute circumstances and having no kindred living within this State and of sufficient ability legally liable for her support, the State shall pay the necessary expenses of her burial. Such expenses shall not exceed the sum of \$250 in any case and the burial shall be in some cemetery not used exclusively for the burial of the pauper dead.

1963, c. 433, § 3.

§ 154. —Reimbursement of municipalities by State

The municipal officers of the city or town in which such deceased, mentioned in section 153, resided at the time of his death shall pay the expenses of his burial, and if he die in an unincor-

porated place, the town charged with the support of paupers in such unincorporated place shall pay such expenses. In either case upon satisfactory proof by such town or city to the Department of Veterans Services of the fact of such death and payment, the State shall refund to said town or city the amount so paid. The person whose burial expenses are paid in accordance with this section and section 153 shall not be constituted a pauper thereby. Said proof shall contain a certificate from the Adjutant General of the State to the effect that such person was an honorably discharged soldier or sailor or the widow of an honorably discharged soldier or sailor.

1963, c. 433, § 3.