

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1864.

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1864.

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 14.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR.

AN ACT to provide support for the families of soldiers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

SECTION 1. The cities, towns and plantations in this
2 state shall raise money by taxation or otherwise to be
3 applied to aid in the support of the wife, aged, infirm
4 and dependent father and mother, and minor children
5 under the age of fifteen years, being inhabitants of
6 such city, town or plantation of any soldier, sailor, or
7 marine, who may be actually engaged in the military
8 or naval service of the United States or of this state
9 in any recognized company, battalion, or regiment, of
10 the United States or of this state or on board of any
11 armed vessel of the United States during the present

12 rebellion ; the money so raised to be expended under
13 the direction of the municipal authorities of said cities,
14 towns and plantations as herein prescribed : there shall
15 be paid in money the sum of seventy-five cents per
16 week for a wife, aged and infirm dependent mother,
17 father, or widowed mother, and fifty cents per week
18 for each child under the age of fifteen years, and the
19 same sum for each minor child over the age of fifteen
20 years if said child is unable to work and labor so as to
21 support itself, all being inhabitants as aforesaid of such
22 city, town or plantation, and who at the time such
23 soldier, sailor or marine was called into the service
24 were and still continue to be dependent on him for
25 their support ; *provided however*, that no such aid shall
26 be furnished by the municipal officers aforesaid unless
27 the person or persons entitled thereto or some one by
28 them duly authorized shall demand the same of the
29 authorities aforesaid before the thirty-first day of De-
30 cember in each year ; and the sum so paid shall not in
31 any case exceed three dollars per week for all the
32 persons thus dependent upon one soldier, sailor or
33 marine ; and such aid may at the discretion of the
34 municipal authorities aforesaid, be furnished to such
35 persons as are herein authorized to receive it belong-
36 ing to the family of any such soldier, sailor or marine

37 killed in battle or by the casualties of war, or who
38 may be discharged from the service in consequence of
39 any disability resulting from the casualties of war and
40 not from his own fault; or who may be disabled as
41 aforesaid and discharged in consequence of the expira-
42 tion of time of service, for a period not exceeding one
43 year after such death or discharge, provided that in
44 case of discharge he shall not sooner recover from such
45 disability.

SECT. 2. The cities, towns and plantations in this
2 state, are hereby authorized and empowered to raise
3 any additional sum or sums of money over and above
4 the amount to be reimbursed by the state, by taxation
5 or otherwise, to aid in the support of the dependent
6 family of such soldier, sailor or marine in the service
7 of the United States, or of this state, as set forth in
8 the first section of this act, in order to provide such
9 support as may be deemed necessary in cases not met
10 or adequately provided for by the provisions of this
11 act.

SECT. 3. The money so applied by any city, town
2 or plantation, as authorized by the first section of this
3 act, shall be reimbursed from the state treasury to
4 such city, town or plantation.

SECT. 4. No such reimbursement shall be made in

2 any case, until an account of the expenditures, duly
3 certified and sworn to by a majority of the proper
4 municipal authorities of each city, town and planta-
5 tion in the state, furnishing the aid as aforesaid, shall
6 be made and filed with the governor and council,
7 which account shall set forth the name of the soldier
8 for whose family expense has been incurred ; also the
9 name and age of each person who received aid and
10 the sum paid for each of said persons. Accounts thus
11 made out and filed within the time hereinafter pre-
12 scribed, shall be examined by the governor and coun-
13 cil, and if found correct and duly vouched shall be
14 approved.

SECT. 5. Such accounts shall be made up to the
2 first day of January in each year, and shall be filed
3 with the governor and council on or before the first
4 day of February following, and shall be examined and
5 passed upon on or before the first day of April annu-
6 ally. If approved, the amount allowed shall be paid
7 by the state treasurer to the city, town or plantation
8 whose claim has thus been established.

SECT. 6. No pauper disabilities shall be created by
2 reason of receiving the aid provided for in this act.

SECT. 7. The word plantation, when it occurs in this
2 act, is intended to include plantations duly organized

3 for election purposes. And any person entitled to the
4 aid provided for in this act, who may reside in any
5 unorganized plantation in this state, shall receive it in
6 the nearest duly organized city, town or plantation in
7 this state.

SECT. 8. This act shall not authorize reimbursing
2 money applied to aid the wife, child or parent as
3 aforesaid, of any commissioned officer in the military
4 or naval service as aforesaid, or for money applied to
5 aid the family of any soldier, sailor or marine who
6 may desert the service, after notice of such desertion
7 shall be received by the city, town or plantation of his
8 residence.

SECT. 9. The governor and council shall have power
2 to send for persons and papers in order to ascertain the
3 amount due to each city, town and plantation under
4 this act.

SECT. 10. If any city, town or plantation shall neg-
2 lect or refuse to comply with the provisions of this act
3 according to its true intent and meaning, and to the
4 satisfaction of the governor and council, it shall forfeit
5 and pay the sum of one hundred dollars, to be recov-
6 ered by indictment in any court proper to try the
7 same.

SECT. 11. Any one of the persons named in the first

2 section of this act, as entitled to aid, who shall be tem-
3 porarily absent from the state or town without aban-
4 doning residence therein, shall receive the aid herein
5 specified, provided application shall be made therefor
6 to the municipal officers of the city, town or plantation
7 of their residence, before the thirty-first day of Decem-
8 ber in each year and not otherwise.

SECT. 12. It shall be the duty of the adjutant gen-
2 eral to give notice in all cases of desertions to the sev-
3 eral cities, towns and plantations of the state of each
4 soldier, sailor or marine residing therein, and also in
5 all cases of return from desertion, and also when any
6 non-commissioned officer or private shall be promoted
7 to the rank of a commissioned officer, as soon as he
8 shall receive the knowledge of such promotion, such
9 notice being in each case a simple statement of the fact.

SECT. 13. The secretary of state shall furnish an
2 attested copy of this act to the municipal officers of the
3 several cities, towns and plantations of the state within
4 twenty days after its approval by the governor.

SECT. 14. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
2 with this act are hereby repealed, and this act shall
3 take effect and be in force from and after the twenti-
4 eth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thou-
5 sand eight hundred and sixty-four.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 2, 1864.

Reported from the Committee on Military Affairs, by Mr. MANSON of Penobscot, and on his motion laid on the table, and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

EZRA C. BRETT, *Secretary.*