

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. 29.

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.

[As it passed to be engrossed.]

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 children under
5 the age of fifteen years, being inhabitants of such
6 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 of such soldier under the age of fifteen
19 years ; *provided, however*, that no person shall be paid
20 this aid for more than one month prior to the time of
21 making application, and no application shall continue
22 in force longer than to December thirty-first of the
23 year in which it is made ; but the beneficiary may, at
24 the time of receiving the last payment of any year,
25 give notice that the continuance of the aid will be
26 needed, and such notice shall be deemed equivalent to
27 a new application for the ensuing year ; and the sum so
28 paid shall not in any case exceed two and a half dollars
29 per week for all the persons thus dependent upon one
30 soldier, sailor or marine ; and such aid shall be fur-
31 nished to such persons as are herein authorized to
32 receive it, belonging to the family of any such soldier,
33 sailor or marine, killed in battle or by the casualties
34 of war ; and such aid may, at the discretion of the
35 municipal authorities, be furnished to the persons
36 herein authorized to receive it, belonging to the family

37 of any such soldier, sailor or marine, who may be dis-
38 charged from the service in consequence of any disa-
39 bility resulting from the casualties of war and not from
40 his own fault; or who may be disabled as aforesaid,
41 and discharged in consequence of the expiration of
42 time of service, for a period not exceeding one year
43 after such death or discharge, provided that in case of
44 discharge he shall not sooner recover from such disa-
45 bility.

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 May 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 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, or the
2 municipal officers thereof, shall neglect or refuse to
3 comply with the provisions of this act according to its
4 true intent and meaning, and to the satisfaction of the
5 governor and council, such city, town or plantation,
6 or the municipal officers thereof, as the case may be,
7 shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars,
8 one half to the use of the aggrieved party, and one

9 half to the county where the cause is tried, to be re-
10 covered by indictment in any court proper to try the
11 same.

SECT. 11. Any one of the persons named in the first
2 section of this act, as entitled to aid, who shall be
3 temporarily absent from the state or town, without
4 abandoning residence therein, shall receive the aid
5 herein specified, provided application shall be made
6 therefor to the municipal officers of the city, town or
7 plantation of their residence.

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

SECT. 13. The secretary of state shall furnish an
2 attested copy of this act to the municipal officers of
3 the several cities, towns and plantations of the state,
4 within 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 first day
4 of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
5 hundred and sixty-four.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 22, 1861.

The several House amendments adopted, and as amended, passed to be engrossed in concurrence; and on motion of Mr. SANBORN of Kennebec, 1,000 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

EZRA C. BRETT, *Secretary.*