

HOUSE No. 585

By Mr. Lewis R. Sullivan, Jr., of Boston, petition of Lewis R. Sullivan, Jr., for legislation to provide for payment of expenses of a firing squad at funerals of veteran soldiers and sailors. Military Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-One.

An Act to provide for the Payment of the Expenses of
a Firing Squad at the Funerals of Veterans.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section twenty of chapter one hundred and fifteen
2 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by
3 section seven of chapter one hundred and fifty-five
4 of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-eight,
5 is hereby further amended by inserting after the
6 word "commonwealth" in the sixth and seventh
7 lines the words: —, except that an additional sum
8 not to exceed dollars shall be allowed for the
9 services and expenses of veterans composing a firing
10 squad attending any such funeral, — so as to read as
11 follows: — *Section 20.* The expenses of a burial as
12 aforesaid shall not exceed one hundred dollars, two
13 dollars of which shall be paid as compensation to the

14 burial agent causing the interment to be made; but if
15 the total expense of the burial, by whomsoever in-
16 curred, shall exceed two hundred dollars, no payment
17 therefor shall be made by the commonwealth, except
18 that an additional sum not to exceed dollars shall
19 be allowed for the services and expenses of veterans
20 composing a firing squad attending any such funeral.

21 The burial shall not be made in any cemetery or
22 burial ground used exclusively for the burial of per-
23 sons buried under the provisions of chapter one hun-
24 dred and seventeen, or in any part of any cemetery
25 or burial ground so used. Relatives of the deceased
26 who are unable to bear the expense of burial may
27 be allowed to conduct the funeral. The full amount
28 so expended, the name of the deceased soldier or
29 sailor, the regiment, company, station, organization
30 or vessel in which he served, the date of death, place
31 of interment, and in case of a wife or widow the
32 name of the husband and date of marriage, and
33 such other details as the commissioner may re-
34 quire, shall be certified on oath to him, in such
35 manner as he may approve, by the burial agent
36 and the treasurer of the town expending the
37 amount, within three months after the burial; and the
38 commissioner shall endorse upon the certificate his
39 allowance of such amounts as he finds have been
40 paid, and reported according to the foregoing pro-
41 visions, and shall transmit the certificate to the
42 comptroller. The amounts legally paid and so
43 allowed, with no expense for disbursement, shall be
44 reimbursed by the commonwealth to the several
45 towns on or before November tenth in the year after
46 the expenditures have been made.

