

# HOUSE . . . . No. 655

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Bill accompanying the petition of George A. Schofield for legislation to provide for suitably rewarding certain veteran soldiers and sailors. Military Affairs. January 24.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ten.

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### AN ACT

To provide for suitably rewarding Certain Veteran Soldiers and Sailors.

*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 1. For the purpose of promoting the spirit  
2 of loyalty and patriotism, and in recognition of the sacri-  
3 fice made both for the commonwealth and for the United  
4 States by those veteran soldiers and sailors who volun-  
5 teered their services in the civil war, and for the purpose  
6 of promoting the public welfare, by giving visible evidence  
7 to this and future generations that, if danger should again  
8 threaten the nation and the call should again come for  
9 men, Massachusetts will not forget the great service of  
10 those who volunteer, a gratuity of one hundred and  
11 twenty-five dollars to each veteran is hereby authorized to  
12 be paid from the treasury of the commonwealth under  
13 the following conditions: —

1 SECTION 2. The gratuity herein provided for shall be  
2 paid to every person (or his legal representatives), not  
3 being a conscript or a substitute, and not having received  
4 a bounty from the commonwealth or from any city or  
5 town therein, who served in the army or navy of the  
6 United States to the credit of the commonwealth during  
7 the civil war, and was honorably discharged from such  
8 service, and is living at the time of the passage of this  
9 act; it being intended and provided that the said gift shall  
10 not be a bounty, nor a payment in equalization of bounties,  
11 nor a payment for services rendered, nor a payment for the  
12 purpose of making the result of their contracts of enlist-  
13 ment more favorable to them because the contracts of  
14 other soldiers were on better terms, but a testimonial for  
15 meritorious service such as the commonwealth may  
16 rightly give, and such as her sons may honorably accept  
17 and receive.

1 SECTION 3. The auditor, the secretary of the com-  
2 monwealth and the adjutant general shall be a commission  
3 to act upon applications made hereunder, and the said  
4 commission may expend for clerical assistance and for  
5 such other expenses as may be necessary in carrying out  
6 the provisions of this act a sum not exceeding two thou-  
7 sand dollars; and said commissioners shall receive such  
8 compensation for their services as the governor and coun-  
9 cil may determine.

1 SECTION 4. City and town clerks and treasurers shall  
2 upon the request of any applicant hereunder or of the  
3 said commission, furnish the commission with lists of all  
4 persons to whom bounties for service in the civil war have  
5 been paid by their respective cities and towns.

1 SECTION 5. The sums payable under this act shall be  
2 paid only to the person or his legal representative named  
3 in the certificate granted by said commission, or to his  
4 executor or administrator.

1 SECTION 6. The fee for the prosecution of a claim  
2 under this act shall not exceed the sum of five dollars;  
3 and the fee agreed upon between the parties, not exceed-  
4 ing said amount, shall be paid to the attorney or other  
5 person entitled thereto out of the amount allowed on the  
6 certificate of the commission allowing the same. Any  
7 attorney or other person who demands or receives for his  
8 services any greater compensation than the sum above  
9 specified shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, for  
10 every such offence, be punished by fine not exceeding one  
11 hundred dollars or by imprisonment at hard labor for  
12 a term not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and  
13 and imprisonment.

1 SECTION 7. The expenditures to be made under  
2 authority of this act shall be taken from the Massachu-  
3 setts volunteer fund, and if the fund shall not be sufficient  
4 for the purpose, the treasurer and receiver general, with  
5 the advice and consent of the governor and council, may  
6 from time to time issue bonds of the commonwealth to an  
7 amount not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars.  
8 Such bonds shall be issued for terms of not more than ten  
9 years shall be sold or disposed of in such manner and at  
10 such times and prices, and in such amounts and at such  
11 rates of interest, not exceeding four per centum per  
12 annum, as the treasurer, with the approval of the governor  
13 and council, may determine.

1 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

