

# SENATE . . . . No. 319

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To accompany the petition of the Massachusetts Veterans Service Association, by William C. Geary, for legislation to amend the laws relative to State and military aid, soldiers' relief and other welfare laws. Military Affairs and Public Safety.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Seven.

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AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATIVE TO STATE AND MILITARY AID, SOLDIERS' RELIEF, ETC., AND IN CERTAIN OTHER RESPECTS.

*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. Section 2 of chapter 115 of the General  
2 Laws, as appearing in section 1 of chapter 584 of the  
3 acts of 1946, is hereby amended by striking out, in the  
4 third paragraph, the words "a final appeal from such  
5 decision or determination may be taken by such  
6 claimant, veterans' agent or resident, within ten days  
7 after his receipt of notice of the same, to the governor  
8 and council" and inserting in place thereof the fol-  
9 lowing: — a final appeal from such decision or deter-  
10 mination may be taken by such claimant, veterans'  
11 agent or resident, within ten days after his receipt of  
12 notice of the same, to a board of nine veterans' agents,  
13 one member of which shall be appointed chairman, and

14 said chairman shall designate three members to sit in  
15 each appeal case.

1 SECTION 2. The second paragraph of section 5 of  
2 said chapter 115, as so appearing, is hereby amended  
3 by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following sentence:— No back benefits  
5 shall be paid beyond the date of application, except  
6 in cases of emergency where bills have been con-  
7 tracted, but in no event for a period prior to thirty  
8 days before date of application.

1 SECTION 3. The fourth paragraph of said section 5,  
2 as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking  
3 out, in the eighth to the eleventh lines, inclusive, the  
4 words: , “and, except in such case, such benefits shall  
5 be paid only to or for a person who lives separate from  
6 persons receiving support under chapter one hundred  
7 and seventeen or chapter one hundred and twenty-  
8 two.”

1 SECTION 4. Section 7 of said chapter 115, as so  
2 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the  
3 words “Annually in April, the mayor of each city  
4 except Boston, and the selectmen of each town, and,  
5 in Boston, the soldiers’ relief commissioner, shall  
6 designate a burial agent, who shall not be one of the  
7 local board of public welfare or be employed by said  
8 board, and who shall,” and inserting in place thereof  
9 the following:— The veterans’ agent shall be the  
10 burial agent and shall.

1 SECTION 5. Section 8 of said chapter 115, as so  
2 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the first

3 two sentences, and inserting in place thereof the two  
4 following sentences:— Amounts expended by the  
5 burial agent under the provisions of section seven  
6 shall not be greater than one hundred and fifty dollars  
7 for the burial of a child under the age of thirteen, nor  
8 greater than two hundred and fifty dollars for the  
9 burial of any other person; two dollars of the amount  
10 expended for any single burial shall be paid to the  
11 burial agent as compensation for his services. No  
12 city or town shall be reimbursed under this section  
13 for any amount so expended for any single burial if  
14 the total expense of said burial, by whomsoever in-  
15 curred, exceeded two hundred and fifty dollars for a  
16 child under the age of thirteen, or three hundred and  
17 fifty dollars for any other person.

