

HOUSE No. 1025

By Messrs. Kamens and Cronin of Chelsea, petition of Jeremiah Kamens, Patrick F. Cronin and Joseph A. Melley for legislation relative to the payment of burial expenses of certain veterans. Military Affairs and Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PAYMENT OF BURIAL EXPENSES OF CERTAIN 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 Chapter 115 of the General Laws, as inserted by
2 section 1 of chapter 584 of the acts of 1946, is hereby
3 amended by striking out section 8 and inserting in
4 place thereof the following: —

5 *Section 8.* Amounts expended by the burial agent
6 under the provisions of section seven shall not be
7 greater than one hundred dollars for the burial of a
8 child under the age of thirteen, nor greater than two
9 hundred dollars for the burial of any other person;
10 two dollars of the amount expended for any single
11 burial shall be paid to the burial agent as compensa-
12 tion for his services. No city or town shall be reim-
13 bursed under this section for any amount so expended
14 for any single burial if the total expense of said burial,

15 by whomsoever incurred, exceeded three hundred
16 dollars for a child under the age of thirteen, or five
17 hundred dollars for any other person. The burial
18 shall not be made in any cemetery or burial ground
19 used exclusively for the burial of persons under the
20 provisions of chapter one hundred and seventeen, or
21 in any part of any cemetery or burial ground so used.
22 Relatives of the deceased who are unable to bear the
23 expense of burial may be allowed to conduct the
24 funeral. The full amount so expended, the name of
25 the deceased, and, if he was a veteran, the regiment,
26 company, station, organization or vessel in which he
27 served, the date of death, place of interment, and if
28 deceased was a wife or widow the name of her hus-
29 band and date of her marriage, and if the deceased
30 was a dependent child the name of the veteran, and
31 such other details as the commissioner may require,
32 shall be certified on oath to him, in such manner as
33 he may approve, by the burial agent and the treasurer
34 of the city or town expending the amount, within
35 three months after the burial; the commissioner shall
36 endorse upon the certificate his allowance of such
37 amounts as he finds have been paid and reported ac-
38 cording to the foregoing provisions, and shall transmit
39 the certificate to the comptroller. One half the amounts
40 legally paid and so allowed shall be paid by the com-
41 monwealth to the several cities and towns on or before
42 November tenth in the year after the expenditures
43 have been made.