

# SENATE . . . . No. 315

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To accompany the petition of Department of Massachusetts, United Spanish War Veterans, by Emery C. Griswold, chairman of the legislative committee, for legislation to authorize the payment of soldiers' relief to the dependents of certain persons. Military Affairs.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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An Act authorizing the Payment of Soldiers' Relief  
to the Dependents of Certain Persons.

*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 seventeen of chapter one hundred and  
2 fifteen of the General Laws, as most recently  
3 amended by chapter one hundred and ninety-two  
4 of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty, is  
5 hereby further amended by striking out, in the  
6 twenty-first and twenty-second lines, the words  
7 "in the case of his death," — and by striking  
8 out, in the twenty-fourth line, the words "during  
9 his lifetime" — so that the first paragraph of  
10 said section will read as follows: — *Section 17.*  
11 If a person who served in the army or navy of  
12 the United States in the war of the rebellion,  
13 in the army, navy or marine corps in the war  
14 with Spain or the Philippine insurrection be-

15 tween April twenty-first, eighteen hundred and  
16 ninety-eight, and July fourth, nineteen hundred  
17 and two, or in the army, navy or marine corps  
18 in the world war and received an honorable  
19 discharge from all enlistments therein, and who  
20 has a legal settlement in a town in the common-  
21 wealth, becomes poor and wholly or partly unable  
22 to provide maintenance for himself, his wife or  
23 minor children under sixteen years of age or for  
24 a dependent father or mother, unless such con-  
25 dition is the result of his own criminal or wilful  
26 misconduct, or if such person dies leaving a  
27 widow or minor children under sixteen years of  
28 age, or minor children over sixteen but under  
29 eighteen years of age who attend school or are  
30 incapacitated for work, or a dependent father or  
31 mother without proper means of support, such  
32 support as may be necessary shall be accorded  
33 to him or his said dependents by the town where  
34 they or any of them have a legal settlement, and  
35 his said dependents shall not be deemed ineligible  
36 to receive said support by reason of criminal or  
37 wilful misconduct on his part at any time; but  
38 should such person have all the said qualifica-  
39 tions except settlement, if he served in the war  
40 of the rebellion, or in the army, navy or marine  
41 corps in the war with Spain or the Philippine  
42 insurrection between said dates, his widow, who  
43 has acquired a legal settlement in her own right  
44 before August twelfth, nineteen hundred and  
45 sixteen, which settlement has not been defeated  
46 or lost, or if he served in the world war and at  
47 the time of his decease was a legal resident of

48 this commonwealth, his widow, who has a legal  
49 settlement and who has not remarried, and his  
50 minor children under sixteen years of age, and  
51 those over sixteen but under eighteen years of  
52 age who attend school or are incapacitated for  
53 work, shall also be eligible to receive relief under  
54 this section. Any crippled, blind or helpless  
55 child, whether a minor or adult, of a deceased  
56 person who served in the army or navy of the  
57 United States in the war of the rebellion, or in  
58 the war with Spain or the Philippine insurrec-  
59 tion between April twenty-first, eighteen hun-  
60 dred and ninety-eight and July fourth, nineteen  
61 hundred and two, and received an honorable  
62 discharge from all enlistments therein, if such  
63 child is receiving a pension from the United  
64 States and is not otherwise eligible to receive  
65 relief under this section, shall also be eligible  
66 as aforesaid. Such relief shall be furnished by  
67 the aldermen or selectmen, or, in Boston, by  
68 the soldiers' relief commissioner, subject, how-  
69 ever, to the direction of the city council of said  
70 city as to the amount to be paid. The bene-  
71 ficiaries shall receive said relief at home, or at such  
72 other place as the aldermen, selectmen or sol-  
73 diers' relief commissioner deem proper, but he  
74 shall not be compelled to receive the same at an  
75 infirmary or public institution unless his physical  
76 or mental condition requires, or, if a minor,  
77 unless his parents or guardian so elect.

