

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1354

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Mr. Sargent of Clinton presented a petition of Frank J. Sargent, Frank C. Sheridan and John J. Gilmartin for legislation relative to payment of burial expenses of dependent children of certain veteran soldiers and sailors. Military Affairs.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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An Act providing for the Payment of Burial Expenses of Dependent Children 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 Section nineteen of chapter one hundred and fif-  
2 teen of the General Laws, as most recently amended  
3 by chapter two hundred and fifty of the acts of nine-  
4 teen hundred and thirty-two, is hereby further  
5 amended by inserting after the word "mother" in  
6 the twentieth line the words:— and the bodies of  
7 his dependent children under the age of eighteen,—  
8 so as to read as follows:— *Section 19.* The mayor of  
9 each city and the selectmen of each town or, in Boston,  
10 the soldiers' relief commissioner, shall designate a  
11 burial agent, who shall not be one of the board of  
12 public welfare or be employed by said board, and  
13 who shall, under regulations established by the com-  
14 missioner, cause properly to be interred the body of  
15 any honorably discharged soldier or sailor who served

16 in the army or navy of the United States during the  
17 war of the rebellion, or in the Indian campaigns if  
18 he died in receipt of a pension from the United States,  
19 or during the war between the United States and  
20 Spain or the Philippine insurrection after February  
21 fourteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight and  
22 prior to July fourth, nineteen hundred and two, or  
23 in the Mexican border service of nineteen hundred  
24 and sixteen and of nineteen hundred and seventeen,  
25 or in the world war; provided, that the soldier or  
26 sailor died in such service or after an honorable dis-  
27 charge therefrom or release from active duty therein;  
28 and shall also so inter the body of his wife, widow or  
29 dependent father or mother and the bodies of his  
30 dependent children under the age of eighteen, and  
31 the bodies of army nurses entitled to state aid under  
32 section six, if they die without sufficient means to  
33 defray funeral expenses; but no wife or widow of  
34 any soldier or sailor of the civil war shall be entitled  
35 to the benefits of this section unless she was married  
36 to him prior to June twenty-seventh, eighteen hun-  
37 dred and ninety, and no wife or widow of any soldier  
38 of the Indian campaigns unless she was married to  
39 him prior to March fourth, nineteen hundred and  
40 seventeen, and unless she was, if his widow, in re-  
41 ceipt of a pension under the act of congress of March  
42 fourth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, and no wife  
43 or widow of any soldier or sailor of the Spanish war,  
44 or the Philippine insurrection, unless she was mar-  
45 ried to him prior to September first, nineteen hundred  
46 and twenty-two; and no wife or widow of any soldier  
47 or sailor of the Mexican border service or of the  
48 world war unless she was married to him on or before  
49 January first, nineteen hundred and twenty-eight. If

50 an interment has taken place without the knowledge  
51 of the burial agent, application may be made to him  
52 within thirty days after the date of death, or after  
53 final interment if the soldier or sailor dies in the world  
54 war service; and if upon investigation he shall find  
55 that the deceased was within the provisions of this  
56 section and the rules of the commissioner, he may  
57 certify the same as provided in the following section.

The first of these is the fact that the  
 population of the country has increased  
 very rapidly since the year 1850. It  
 is now estimated that there are about  
 10,000,000 inhabitants in the United  
 States, and this number is increasing  
 at the rate of about 1,000,000 per  
 year. This rapid increase has led to  
 the development of a new and  
 powerful industrial system, which  
 has made possible the production of  
 goods in quantities and at prices  
 which were formerly unattainable.

The second of these factors is the  
 fact that the United States has  
 become a world power. This has  
 been due to the fact that the  
 country has developed a strong  
 navy and a powerful army, and  
 has been able to project its power  
 throughout the world. This has  
 led to the acquisition of vast  
 territories, and has made possible  
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