

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1404

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By Mr. Stanley E. Johnson of Worcester, petition of Gabriel T. Olga for legislation relative to the care of veterans' graves. Military Affairs.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CARE OF VETERANS' GRAVES.

*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 is hereby amended by  
2 striking out section 9, as appearing in section 1 of chapter  
3 584 of the acts of 1946, and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following section:—

5 *Section 9.* Annually in April, the mayor of every city and  
6 the selectmen of every town shall appoint a resident of such  
7 city or town who is a veteran as defined in clause forty-third  
8 of section seven of chapter four of the General Laws, as a  
9 veteran graves officer. It shall be the duty of such veteran  
10 graves officer to cause every veteran's grave within such city  
11 or town to be suitably kept and cared for. Such care shall in-  
12 clude the clearing of said graves from weeds and other un-  
13 seemly growth; the repairing, replacement and general up-  
14 keep of fences around said grave; the raising and repair of  
15 sunken grave stones and markers and other similar services  
16 that may be necessary to restore and maintain such grave  
17 and its surroundings in an orderly condition. If the cost of  
18 such care and maintenance is not paid by private persons, or  
19 by the trustees of the cemeteries where any such grave is  
20 situated, it shall be paid by the city or town; and cities and

21 towns may appropriate money therefor. Money so appro-  
22 priated may be expended directly by the city or town or paid  
23 over to the trustees or manager of any cemetery where any  
24 such grave is situated; but the sum so paid over in any year  
25 shall not exceed for each grave the sum charged for the  
26 annual care and maintenance of like lots in the same cemetery,  
27 or, if no such charge is made in that cemetery, it shall not  
28 exceed the sum charged in other cemeteries in the same city  
29 or town for like services. The city or town in which the de-  
30 ceased veteran was settled at the time of his death shall cause  
31 to be placed on his grave a flag of the United States on every  
32 Memorial day, and in the event that said veteran had no  
33 settlement within the commonwealth, the city or town of his  
34 residence at the time of death shall have the duty of so placing  
35 such flag.