

SENATE No. 304

To accompany the petition of George A. Hastings that cities and towns be required to make just and adequate financial provision for returned or returning soldiers, sailors or marines until they secure remunerative employment. Reconstruction.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen.

AN ACT

To require Cities and Towns to make Just and Adequate Provision for their returning Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.

1 *Whereas*, An emergency exists requiring the
2 immediate passage and taking effect of the fol-
3 lowing law, which is hereby declared to be an
4 emergency law, as necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public convenience, in that
6 large numbers of men are daily being discharged
7 from the military and naval forces of the United
8 States, justice and good faith requiring that
9 adequate and instant provision be made for such
10 men until restored to remunerative employment;
11 therefore,

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. Every soldier, sailor or marine
2 who served to the credit of this commonwealth
3 in the military or naval forces of the United
4 States, in the war with Germany, shall, upon his
5 honorable discharge from the federal service or
6 release from active duty, be entitled to receive
7 from the city or town wherein he resided at the
8 time of his enlistment or induction into the
9 service of the United States, such weekly sums of
10 money as shall be equivalent to the salary or
11 wages which he was receiving at the time of said
12 enlistment or induction, or when last employed,
13 not, however, exceeding the sum of twenty dol-
14 lars per week. Said weekly payments shall con-
15 tinue until such time as the recipient shall find,
16 or shall be provided with, employment as remun-
17 erative as that which he abandoned in order to
18 enter the said service, but not for a longer term
19 than three months following his discharge or
20 release. The mayor and city council of cities
21 and selectmen of towns shall be charged with the
22 enforcement of this act.

1 SECTION 2. Cities and towns may raise by
2 taxation or otherwise such sums as may be nec-
3 essary to comply with the provisions of section
4 one.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.