

By Mr. Bulger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1840) of William M. Bulger and Charles F. Flaherty for legislation to provide financial aid to certain needy dependents of armed forces personnel. Ways and Means (Senate).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL AID TO CERTAIN NEEDY DEPENDENTS OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is to provide immediate financial
3 assistance to the dependents of certain persons in the armed forces
4 of the United States, therefore it is hereby declared to be an
5 emergency law necessary for the immediate preservation of the
6 public convenience.

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. Any city or town, acting by its veterans' agent,
2 may provide an allowance for the needy dependents resident
3 therein of any person in the active service of the armed forces of
4 the United States during the period of such service for sixty days
5 following his release or discharge from such service or other
6 termination thereof; provided, that said person, at the time of his
7 entry into said service, or his recall thereto, or his continuance
8 therein at the expiration of a prior enlistment to the credit of the
9 commonwealth, was a resident of the commonwealth, and had
10 been a resident thereof for not less than one year. The amount
11 of such allowance shall be determined by the commissioner of
12 veterans' services in accordance with budget schedules which he
13 will furnish to each local veteran's agent.

14 The dependents of such person who are eligible to receive such
15 aid shall be the wife, children under eighteen years of age, or a

16 dependent parent, or anyone who stood in the relationship of a
17 parent to such person, for five years next preceding the
18 commencement of his service.

1 SECTION 2. Applicants for allowance hereunder shall, as a
2 basis for the first payment thereof, state in writing the name, age
3 and residence of the person for whom the same is sought, the
4 relationship of such person to the serviceman, the branch in which
5 he is serving, the date and place of his enlistment, induction or
6 recall, the amount of United States pay, allotment and federal
7 family allowance, if any, the average weekly amount contributed
8 by the serviceman during the year previous to service, and the
9 reason for the application, and shall furnish such official
10 certificates or records, and such other information as may be
11 required.

1 SECTION 3. The commissioner of veterans' services shall,
2 from time to time, furnish each city and town with a sufficient
3 number of blank forms for the use of applicants; shall decide all
4 questions in dispute between applicants and the municipal
5 authorities; shall investigate all payments of allowance; shall have
6 the power to determine all incidental questions arising in
7 connection therewith; and shall have the custody of the original
8 papers relating to each application.

1 SECTION 4. The amounts expended by any city or town for
2 dependency allowance, the names of recipients thereof, the
3 amounts paid to or for each applicant, the reason for granting
4 such allowance, the names of the servicemen on account of whose
5 services the allowances were granted and the relationship of each
6 dependent to the serviceman on account of whose service the
7 allowances were granted, and such other details as the
8 commissioner may require, shall, within the first ten days of the
9 month following the month in which such expenditures were
10 made, be certified to said commissioner on blank forms provided
11 by him, in the manner approved by him, and under the penalties
12 of perjury, by the veterans' agent and treasurer of such city or
13 town. The commissioner shall examine such certificates, shall
14 allow and endorse thereon such amounts as he finds have been
15 paid and reported in accordance with the provisions of this act,

16 and shall transmit the certificates to the state comptroller. The
17 commissioner may decide upon the necessity of the amount paid
18 in each case, and may allow any part thereof which he deems
19 proper and lawful. Subject to decision and allowance, the first
20 seventy-five dollars paid to applicants residing in cities and towns
21 making such payments, and seventy-five percent of all amounts
22 in excess of seventy-five dollars, but none of the expenses attending
23 the payment of such allowances shall be paid by the common-
24 wealth to the several cities and towns on or before November tenth
25 in the year after such expenditures.

1 SECTION 5. Whoever knowingly makes a false statement,
2 oral or written, relating to a material fact in supporting a claim
3 to an allowance, under any provision of this act, shall be punished
4 by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars, or by
5 imprisonment for not more than one year. Whoever, being entitled
6 to any of the benefits of this act, fraudulently claims or receives
7 pay for a period of time following the termination of his right to
8 receive the same, shall be punished by a fine of not more than
9 one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than one
10 year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

1 SECTION 6. Cities and towns are hereby authorized to raise
2 by taxation such sums as may be necessary to meet expenses
3 incurred under this act and to borrow money therefor. Loans
4 issued under authority of this act shall be outside the debt and
5 shall be paid in not more than one year from their dates but shall,
6 except as provided herein, be subject to chapter forty-four of the
7 General Laws, exclusive of the limitation contained in the first
8 paragraph of section seven thereof.

1 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect as of August first,
2 nineteen hundred and ninety and shall cease to be effective on June
3 thirtieth, nineteen hundred and ninety-three. This act shall take
4 effect in each city and town, notwithstanding the provisions of
5 any general or other special law to the contrary.

