
By Mr. Moyses of Waltham, petition of George G. Moyses for an amendment of the law relative to the jurisdiction over state rifle ranges. Military Affairs. Jan. 8, 1924.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

An Act relative to State Rifle Ranges.

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. Paragraph (d) of section eighty-six
2 of chapter thirty-three of the General Laws is here-
3 by amended by striking from line twenty-four
4 thereof the words " care and ", and also by adding
5 at the end thereof the following:— He shall estab-
6 lish rules and regulations governing the use of any
7 state rifle range. He may permit its targets, build-
8 ings and other accommodations to be used by the
9 armed forces of the United States and of the several
10 states, by shooting associations and by individuals
11 in connection with shooting practice and competi-
12 tions, when in his opinion said use will not interfere
13 with the use of the range by the militia, and he shall
14 fix a reasonable fee for such use which shall be paid
15 to the commonwealth and credited to the appropria-
16 tion for the maintenance of the state rifle ranges.
17 Any amount due and unpaid by any individual or
18 political subdivision of this commonwealth shall be
19 recovered upon an information in equity brought in

20 the supreme judicial court by the attorney general
21 at the relation of the adjutant general, — so that
22 paragraph (d) will read as follows: — *Section 86.*
23 (d) The ordnance officer, under the direction of
24 the adjutant general, shall be charged with the con-
25 trol of all state rifle ranges, with the supervision of
26 all other ranges provided for the small arms prac-
27 tice of the volunteer militia, and with the supervi-
28 sion of expenditure of public funds appropriated by
29 the commonwealth for the promotion of small arms
30 practice. He shall establish rules and regulations
31 governing the use of any state rifle range. He may
32 permit its targets, buildings and other accommoda-
33 tions to be used by the armed forces of the United
34 States and of the several states, by shooting associa-
35 tions and by individuals in connection with shooting
36 practice and competitions, when in his opinion said
37 use will not interfere with the use of the range by
38 the militia, and he shall fix a reasonable fee for such
39 use which shall be paid to the commonwealth and
40 credited to the appropriation for the maintenance of
41 the state rifle range. Any amount due and unpaid
42 by any individual or political subdivision of this
43 commonwealth shall be recovered upon an informa-
44 tion in equity brought in the supreme judicial court
45 by the attorney general at the relation of the
46 adjutant general.

1 SECTION 2. Paragraph (a) of section forty-nine,
2 of chapter thirty-three of the General Laws is here-
3 by amended by adding at the end thereof the fol-
4 lowing words: — Nothing in this section shall re-
5 lieve any city or town from the obligation to pay for
6 the use of the targets or other accommodations of

7 the state rifle ranges: — so that paragraph (a) will
8 read as follows: — *Section 49A.* When any armory
9 of the first or second class or any parade and drill
10 ground or range for target practice is furnished by
11 the commonwealth in any town, the adjutant gen-
12 eral shall notify the town where such armory, pa-
13 rade and drill ground or range for target practice
14 lies, and thereupon all obligations of said town,
15 under sections thirty-nine, forty and forty-two, and
16 all allowances and payments by the commonwealth
17 for rent, shall cease, as to the organizations quar-
18 tered in said armory, or using said parade and drill
19 ground or said range for target practice. Nothing
20 in this section shall relieve any city or town from
21 the obligation to pay for the use of the targets or
22 other accommodations of the state rifle ranges.

1 SECTION 3. Section eighty-seven of chapter
2 thirty-three of the General Laws is hereby amended
3 by inserting after the word “ have ” in line twenty-
4 two the words: — the care of all state rifle ranges
5 and, — so that said section eighty-seven will read as
6 follows: — *Section 87.* The chief quartermaster
7 shall receive a salary of three thousand dollars. An
8 officer of the quartermaster corps of the land forces,
9 detailed to have supervision of state armories, shall
10 receive compensation not exceeding eight hundred
11 dollars a year, to be paid out of the appropriation
12 for maintenance of armories of the first class. An
13 officer of the quartermaster corps of the land forces
14 with the grade of captain, detailed to act as super-
15 intendent of the state arsenal, shall receive fifteen
16 hundred dollars a year, except when ordered on
17 duty under section twenty-nine or thirty, and shall

18 be in the quartermaster corps of the land forces as
19 a clerk in addition to the clerks hereinafter pro-
20 vided for. The chief quartermaster shall give bond
21 to the commonwealth in the penal sum of twenty
22 thousand dollars, with surety or sureties approved
23 by the governor and council, conditioned faithfully
24 to perform the duties of his office, to use all neces-
25 sary diligence and care in the safe keeping of mili-
26 tary stores and property of the commonwealth com-
27 mitted to his custody, and to account for and deliver
28 over to his successor, or to any person authorized
29 to receive the same, such stores and property. The
30 commander-in-chief may require the duties imposed
31 upon the chief quartermaster to be performed by
32 any officer of the land forces, who shall, in that case,
33 give bond to the commonwealth in like manner as is
34 required of the chief quartermaster. The chief
35 quartermaster, under orders of the commander-in-
36 chief, shall have the care of all state rifle ranges and
37 the care and control of the state camp ground and
38 all other land held for military purposes, of all state
39 arsenals and magazines, of the soldiers' burial lot
40 and monument at Dedham, and of all military prop-
41 erty of the commonwealth except such as is by law
42 expressly intrusted to the keeping of other officers.
43 He shall procure and provide transportation for the
44 land forces and for all their implements, munitions
45 of war and military supplies; such transportation to
46 be in kind whenever practicable. He shall, at the
47 public expense, provide suitable places for the safe
48 keeping of all munitions of war, and all other imple-
49 ments of war. Such implements shall be designated
50 as the property of the commonwealth by suitable
51 permanent brands or marks on each of them. He

52 may allow annually proper accounts for the repair
53 of uniforms and equipment. He shall adjust all ac-
54 counts relating to loans of state military property
55 to towns, institutions and schools, and shall require
56 annual returns of such property and of its condi-
57 tion, at such time and in such manner as he may di-
58 rect, and may at any time, under direction of the
59 commander-in-chief, require the return of the whole
60 or any part of such property as he deems best for
61 the commonwealth. He may employ a superin-
62 tendent of armories, at a salary of twenty-three hun-
63 dred dollars. The actual transportation expenses
64 of the superintendent of armories, in visiting the
65 various armories of the state under direction of the
66 chief quartermaster, shall be paid from the appro-
67 priation for maintenance of armories of the first
68 class. The chief quartermaster may employ neces-
69 sary clerks and other assistants in his department,
70 at an expense not exceeding the amount annually
71 appropriated therefor.

