

HOUSE No. 2242

By Mr. Lemanski of Chicopee, petition of Kenneth M. Lemanski and Marilyn L. Travinski for legislation to provide medical benefits to certain members of the Polish and Czechoslovakian armed forces in the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six.

AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL BENEFITS TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE POLISH AND CZECHOSLOVAKIAN ARMED FORCES.

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 115A of the General Laws is hereby amended by strik-
2 ing out section 4, as most recently amended by section 15 of chapter
3 260 of the acts of 1974, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 Any person who served in the military service of Poland or
6 Czechoslovakia shall be entitled to out-patient treatment at, ad-
7 mission to, and hospitalization in the Soldiers' Home in Massa-
8 chusetts and the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke provided that they
9 served at any time during World War I or World War II in armed
10 conflict against an enemy of the United States or served during the
11 same period in or with the armed forces of France or Great Britain,
12 and have been citizens of the United States for ten years and are not
13 entitled to payment for equivalent care and services under a pro-
14 gram established by Poland or Czechoslovakia for persons who
15 served in their armed forces in World War I or World War II. Such
16 care or services may be furnished those individuals to the same
17 extent as if they had served in the United States Armed Forces.
18 Qualifying service may be established through an authenticated
19 certification from the French Ministry of Defense or the British
20 War Office, which clearly indicates such military service, or
21 through satisfactory evidence pursuant to guidelines prescribed by

22 the chief medical director, or having served in the Czechoslovakian
23 or Polish armed forces or in or with the armed forces of France or
24 Great Britain while in armed conflict against an enemy of the
25 United States during World War I or World War II. Such person
26 shall also produce information in conformity with the rules and
27 regulations of said homes, that he has been honorably discharged
28 from said service, and is a citizen of the commonwealth and has a
29 legal residence in a city or town therein, or if not such a citizen is a
30 citizen of the United States and has such a residence therein; but no
31 such person shall be treated as an out-patient at, admitted to, or
32 hospitalized in, said homes if the treatment, admission or hospital-
33 ization of any person qualified under the provisions of section one
34 would thereby be postponed or denied.