

walls, stairs and windows shall be kept in reasonably good repair and serviceable; (3) that the cellar, basement, floors, walls and ceilings shall be reasonably free from dampness; (4) that the water closets and drains for waste therefrom shall be maintained in good repair; (5) that the heat generating equipment shall be reasonably adequate and be maintained in a reasonably safe and serviceable condition.

Procedure.
Equity juris-
diction.

Instead of proceeding under the first paragraph of this section, the board of health, if satisfied that such a building or portion thereof in its town is unfit for human habitation, as defined in this section, may issue a written notice to the owner of such building, as appearing in the current records of the assessors of such town, setting forth the particulars of such unfitness and requiring that the conditions be remedied. If the person so notified fails within a reasonable time to remedy the conditions thus set forth, the superior court, on a petition in equity brought by the board of health, shall have jurisdiction, by injunction or otherwise, to enforce the standards of this section and said requirements of the board of health.

Approved June 8, 1943.

Chap. 469 AN ACT INCLUDING PERSONS IN THE COAST GUARD SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE VETERANS' PREFERENCE PROVISIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter.
Ed.), 31, § 21,
etc., amended.

Section twenty-one of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter one hundred and ninety-four of the acts of the current year, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "navy" in the third and eighth lines, in each instance, the words: — , coast guard, — so as to read as follows: — *Section 21.* The word "veteran", as used in this chapter, shall mean (1) any person who has served in the army, navy, coast guard or marine corps of the United States in time of war or insurrection and whose last discharge or release from active duty therein was an honorable one, regardless of any prior discharge or release therefrom, or (2) any person who has distinguished himself by gallant or heroic conduct while serving in the army, navy, coast guard or marine corps of the United States and has received a decoration designated as the congressional medal of honor from the president of the United States or the secretary of war, or from a person designated by the president or the said secretary to act as the personal representative of the president or said secretary for the presentation of such decoration, and is recorded in the files of the war department or the navy department of the United States as having received such decoration, or (3) any person who has served in time of war or insurrection in any corps or unit of the United States established for the purpose of enabling women to serve with, or as auxiliary to, the armed forces of the United States, and whose last discharge or release from active duty in such corps

"Veteran"
defined.

or unit was an honorable one, regardless of any prior discharge or release therefrom; provided, that the person claiming to be a veteran under this section was a citizen of the commonwealth at the time of his induction into such service or has resided in the commonwealth for five consecutive years next prior to the date of filing application with the director under this chapter; and provided, further, that any such person who at the time of entering said service had declared his intention to become a subject or citizen of the United States and withdrew such intention under the provisions of the act of congress approved July ninth, nineteen hundred and eighteen, and any person designated as a conscientious objector upon his discharge, shall not be deemed a "veteran" within the meaning of this chapter; and provided, further, that no member of the United States coast guard auxiliary and no temporary member of the United States coast guard reserve shall be deemed a "veteran" within the meaning of this chapter.

Approved June 8, 1943.

AN ACT PERMITTING RECIPIENTS OF OLD AGE ASSISTANCE, *Chap. 470*
 SO CALLED, TO LEAVE THE COMMONWEALTH ON VISIT
 WITHOUT SUSPENSION OF SUCH ASSISTANCE.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Chapter one hundred and eighteen A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section six A, inserted by chapter one hundred and sixty-five of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, and as amended by section seven of chapter seven hundred and twenty-nine of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-one, and inserting in place thereof the following section: — *Section 6A.* Any person receiving assistance under this chapter may be absent on visit from the commonwealth without having such assistance suspended. Such person, before departure from the commonwealth and following return thereto, shall notify the bureau of old age assistance of the town granting such assistance. The department may provide by rule or regulation for the continuation of such assistance during such period as it may deem proper with respect to cases where the suspension of such assistance because of absence from the commonwealth would result in undue hardship or be inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 118A, § 6A, etc., amended.

Absence from commonwealth without suspension of benefits.

Approved June 8, 1943.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE RATE OF INTEREST ON RE- *Chap. 471*
 FUNDS OF TAXES IMPOSED UPON TRANSFERS OF CERTAIN
 ESTATES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section six of chapter sixty-five A of the General Laws, as amended by section two of chapter four hundred and twenty of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, is hereby

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 65A, § 6, etc., amended.