

HOUSE No. 850.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 13, 1899.
[Introduced on leave by Mr. Reed of Taunton. Rules.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-nine.

AN ACT

Relative to the Payment of Bounties to Massachusetts Soldiers.

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 one of chapter five hundred and twenty-
2 five of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and
3 ninety-eight is hereby amended by striking out
4 in section one in lines thirty-one, thirty-two and
5 thirty-three the words "and that in no case shall
6 there be allowed and paid under this act an
7 amount greater than one hundred and twenty-five
8 dollars to any claimant," so that said act when
9 amended shall read: —

10 *Section 1.* The auditor, the secretary of the
11 Commonwealth, and the adjutant general, shall
12 constitute a commission to act upon claims for
13 unpaid bounties presented by honorably dis-
14 charged veterans of the late war for the sup-
15 pression of the rebellion, who were at the time of
16 their enlistment and muster into the United States
17 service residents of Massachusetts, or presented
18 by the widows or minor orphan children, or, in
19 case there be no such widow or minor orphan
20 children, by the dependent mother or father of
21 such veterans. In cases where said commission
22 find, upon evidence satisfactory to them, which
23 evidence must in all cases be furnished by the
24 claimant or claimants themselves, that the veteran
25 in whose name the claim is presented was
26 promised a bounty for military or naval service
27 by vote of any city or town in this Commonwealth
28 prior to the ninth day of April in the year
29 eighteen hundred and sixty-five, that said veteran
30 duly complied with the conditions under which
31 said bounty was to be paid and that said bounty
32 has not been paid, they may certify that the
33 bounty should be paid from the treasury of the
34 Commonwealth to said veteran or to his widow or
35 minor orphan children ; or, in case there be no
36 widow or minor orphan children, to the dependent
37 mother or father of such veteran, and thereupon
38 said claim shall be allowed and paid in the same
39 manner as other claims against the Common-
40 wealth ; the intent of this act being to fulfil all
41 such promises of bounty by cities and towns in

42 accordance with the terms thereof, except as here-
43 inafter provided, whether such promises were at
44 the time valid in law or not : *provided, however,*
45 that no bounty shall be allowed or paid to or on
46 account of any veteran who was not a resident of
47 Massachusetts at the time of his enlistment and
48 muster into the service of the United States, and
49 who was not credited to the quota of the city or
50 town under whose promise the bounty is claimed,
51 except veterans who enlisted from a city or town
52 promising a bounty but were assigned to the quota
53 of a city or town by which no bounty was prom-
54 ised or paid ; and *provided, further,* that no bounty
55 shall be allowed or paid to or on account of any
56 conscript or substitute.

