

# HOUSE . . . . No. 960

---

---

Accompanying the petition of Walter F. Stephens that the Commonwealth be authorized to assist veterans in acquiring homes by the establishment of a soldiers' and sailors' homestead commission. Military Affairs. January 20.

---

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

### AN ACT

To provide for Assisting Veterans in Acquiring Homes.

*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. There is hereby established under the di-  
2 rection of the governor and council, a commission which  
3 shall be known as the soldiers' and sailors' homestead  
4 commission. The commission shall consist of five mem-  
5 bers, to be appointed by the governor, with the advice  
6 and consent of the council of whom three at least shall  
7 be veterans, who shall serve for a term of five years.  
8 The governor shall designate the chairman, who shall be  
9 a veteran. The commission may employ such agent  
10 and clerical and other assistants as may be approved by  
11 the governor and council. The members of the com-  
12 mission and their assistants shall receive such compen-  
13 sation for their services as may be fixed by the governor  
14 and council.

1 SECTION 2. The word "veteran" as used in this act  
2 shall mean any person who has served in the army, navy  
3 or marine corps of the United States in time of war or  
4 insurrection, and who has been honorably discharged  
5 from such service or relieved from active duty therein:  
6 *provided*, that such person is a citizen of the United  
7 States; and *provided, further*, that he was a citizen of this  
8 commonwealth at the time of his induction into such  
9 service.

1 SECTION 3. Upon application to the commission of  
2 any veteran who desires to establish a home in the com-  
3 monwealth, made on blank forms provided for the pur-  
4 pose, the commission is authorized to acquire by purchase  
5 or gift, land or buildings or both within the common-  
6 wealth, adaptable to that purpose, or it may in its dis-  
7 cretion make such alterations or improvements in build-  
8 ings so acquired as may seem desirable, or may construct  
9 new buildings: *provided*, that the cost to the commission  
10 of any real estate so procured for any veteran shall not  
11 exceed the sum of four thousand dollars. Every appli-  
12 cation shall be accompanied by a payment of twenty-five  
13 dollars, which shall be credited by the commission to the  
14 account of the applicant: *provided*, that the same shall  
15 be refunded to the applicant, less all expenses actually  
16 incurred by reason of his application, in case the same  
17 is withdrawn or discontinued.

1 SECTION 4. The cost to the commission of real estate  
2 procured as aforesaid, shall be repaid by the applicant,  
3 with interest thereon at such rate but not more than  
4 four and one half per cent per annum, as the governor  
5 and council may fix, in not less than thirty years from  
6 the date of the purchase of said real estate by the ap-

7 plicant. The first installment on the account of the  
8 principal shall be paid when possession is taken by the  
9 applicant, and shall be not less than one three hundred  
10 and sixtieth part of the cost price. Thereafter on the  
11 first business day of each month, the applicant shall pay,  
12 on account of principal, a sum not less than the first in-  
13 stallment, and all interest accrued to date on the balance  
14 of said cost price remaining unpaid. Upon the payment  
15 in full of said cost price, and all interest thereon, the  
16 commission shall deliver to the applicant a warranty deed  
17 of the premises. The obligations to be entered into by  
18 the applicant shall be embodied in a contract to be pre-  
19 pared by the attorney-general, which shall be executed  
20 by the applicant and delivered to the commission before  
21 taking possession of the premises.

1 SECTION 5. In case of the disability of any veteran  
2 to whom real estate has been assigned under the fore-  
3 going provisions before payments therefor have been  
4 completed, or in case of his death, leaving a dependent  
5 wife or child, his indebtedness may, in the discretion of  
6 the commission, and with the approval of the governor  
7 and council, be cancelled, whereupon the premises shall  
8 be conveyed to the applicant or to such of his dependents  
9 and upon such terms as the commission may deem ex-  
10 pedient to impose.

1 SECTION 6. In case any applicant is prevented, be-  
2 cause of illness or other cause, without his wilful neglect  
3 or default from making payments as hereinbefore re-  
4 quired when due, the commission may make such modi-  
5 fications in his contract as it may deem just and equi-  
6 table.

1 SECTION 7. The commission may from time to time,  
2 with the approval of the governor and council, establish  
3 rules and regulations relative to the sale by the appli-  
4 cant of his interest or to the foreclosure of the same as  
5 may appear just and reasonable.

1 SECTION 8. For the purpose of providing the funds  
2 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, the  
3 treasurer and receiver-general may at the request of the  
4 commission from time to time issue bonds or notes for  
5 such amounts and bearing such rates of interest as the  
6 governor and council may approve.