

# A BILL

TO ESTABLISH A SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME IN IOWA.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa :*

SECTION 1. That there shall be erected and permanently established at the place to be  
2 selected as hereinafter provided a Soldiers and Sailors Home, in the State of Iowa.

SEC. 2. That the Governor of the State shall, as speedily after taking effect of this act as  
2 practicable, appoint by, and with the consent of the Executive Council, three suitable per-  
3 sons, residents of the State of Iowa, who shall constitute a board of commissioners for the  
4 purpose of selecting the location and site, adopting plans and erecting a building for a Sol-  
5 diers' and Sailors' Home for needy ex-Union soldiers and sailors of the State provided for  
6 in this act. The persons so appointed shall be subject to removal by the Governor and in  
7 case of vacancy by death, resignation or otherwise, the Governor shall fill such vacancy by  
8 appointment.

SEC. 3. The board of commissioners provided for in section 2 hereof shall, as speedily af-  
2 ter their appointment as practicable, determine the location of and purchase the site for  
3 such home for needy ex-Union soldiers and sailors; such location shall be selected with the  
4 reference to its healthfulness and accessibility. The site for such home shall consist of not  
5 less than one hundred and sixty acres of land, and shall be so selected as to secure an abun-  
6 dant supply of good water, and an opportunity for proper and efficient drainage.

SEC. 4. The deeds for the conveyance of such site, shall be executed to the State of Iowa,  
2 convey an absolute title in fee simple, and be accompanied by an abstract of title to the  
3 land therein described, showing perfect title in the grant or grantors at the time of the ex-  
4 ecution of such deed or deeds, and when so executed and delivered shall be recorded in the  
5 proper county, after which it shall be deposited with the Auditor of State and the State  
6 Treasurer shall then pay on the warrant of the auditor to the grantor or grantors such sum  
7 of money as the said board of commissioners shall certify they have agreed to pay for said  
8 land.

SEC. 5. The Board of Commissioners shall as soon as practicable, procure and adopt plans,  
2 specifications and estimates for a building to be erected as such home.

SEC. 6. That as soon as the plans for such building is settled and adopted, and the draw-  
2 ings and specifications therefor have been completed and procured, said Board of Commis-  
3 sioners shall invite bids or proposals for the material, labor and construction of said build-  
4 ing by advertisement to be published for thirty days in four daily papers published in the

5 State. One of which shall be published in the city of Des Moines, and the said Board of Com-  
6 missioners shall have power to prescribe such rules for the making and securing of bids or  
7 proposals as they shall deem best, but no contract involving the expenditure of more than  
8 the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) shall be made by said Board of Commissioners  
9 without first inviting such bids, and all contracts shall be let to the lowest bidder comply-  
10 ing with the rules and forms prescribed by the said Board of Commissioners.

SEC. 7. That the said Board of Commissioners shall employ a competent architect and  
2 superintendent of construction, who may, in the discretion of said Board, be the same per-  
3 son, and who shall receive such compensation as the said Board shall, by agreement, de-  
4 termine.

SEC. 8. The accounts of expenditures in the construction of the building shall be certified  
2 by the superintendent and auditor, and approved by the Board of Commissioners, and then  
3 paid by warrant of State Auditor, drawn in favor of the party to whom payment is due in  
4 the usual manner, and the Board is authorized to advance and pay on contract, before the  
5 same are completely performed, not exceeding seventy-five per cent on estimate of material  
6 delivered or labor performed.

SEC. 9. Before entering upon his duties each commissioner shall take and sign an oath  
2 and execute a bond in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars for the use of the State of  
3 Iowa to be approved by the executive council, and filed in the office of the Secretary of State  
4 conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties and the honest and faithful disburse-  
5 ment of and accounting for all moneys which may come into his hands under the provis-  
6 ions of this act.

SEC. 10. The commissioners shall each receive the sum of five dollars per day for the time  
2 actually employed in the discharge of their duties and their actual traveling expenses, and  
3 for time and expenses they shall render bill under oath.

SEC. 11. That the said Board of Commissioners shall appoint a secretary from their num-  
2 ber who shall keep a record of all the proceedings of said Board and an account of all ex-  
3 penditures.

SEC. 12. That there be and there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treas-  
2 ury, not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of this act the sum of one hundred thou-  
3 sand dollars; *provided*, that not more than one half the amount shall be used in the year  
4 1886.

SEC. 13. The said Commissioners are empowered and authorized to review in behalf and  
2 for the benefit of the State any donations of money, personal property or real estate of fund  
3 for the purpose of aiding in the establishment of such home and for the further mainte-  
4 nance and comfort of disabled and indigent soldiers, sailors and marines; but such donation  
5 shall not be received as consideration for the location of such Home at any particular  
6 place.

SEC. 14. The object of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home shall be to provide a home and  
2 subsistence for honorably discharged ex-Union soldiers and sailors who enlisted from Iowa  
3 in the United States army or navy, during the War of Rebellion and the Mexican War, or  
4 who have since become and are now residents of the State of Iowa, who may have become  
5 disabled through the existence of such service, or who may by reason of old age, or other  
6 disability, are disqualified from earning a livelihood, and who, under existing rules, are  
7 unable to procure admission to National Homes.

SEC. 15. When said building is completed and ready for use, the Commissioners shall  
2 notify the Governor of the State thereof, and he shall at once take steps to organize the  
3 same, by appointment of a board of five trustees, who shall hold their offices until the next  
4 session of the Legislature, and whose qualifications and duties shall be the same as now  
5 provided by law for the boards of trustees of the other State institutions, and shall be gov-  
6 erned by the laws governing State institutions of like character.

SEC. 16. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall take effect and be in force  
2 from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and Iowa State Leader, newspa-  
3 pers published at Des Moines, Iowa.