

# A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME IN THE STATE OF IOWA, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAND AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NECESSARY BUILDINGS.

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

SECTION 1. That there be and is hereby created and established in this State an institution to be known as the "Iowa Soldiers' Home," and that the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be and is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, for the purchase and preparation of grounds, and for the erection of suitable buildings and fixtures thereon, and furnishing and equipping the same; and the further sum of fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of maintaining such Soldiers' Home for the years 1886 and 1887; *provided*, that the board may use ten thousand dollars of the above, or so much as may be needed to support or maintain such as are entitled to support under this act, up to the time the Home is ready for occupancy, in such manner and such place as the board may deem best; *provided, however*, that it shall not be lawful for the board of managers hereinafter created to draw upon the sum hereby appropriated, an amount exceeding one hundred and ten thousand dollars in the year 1886 and the sum of forty thousand dollars in the year 1887.

SEC. 2. The object of the "Iowa Soldiers' Home" shall be to provide a home and subsistence for all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines, who have served in the army or navy of the United States in the late war of the Rebellion or the Mexican war, and who are disabled by disease, wounds or otherwise (not the result of any illegal act), and who have no adequate means of support, and are incapable of earning their living, and who would be otherwise dependent upon public or private charity; *provided*, that no applicant shall be admitted to said Home who has not been a resident of the State of Iowa for one year next preceding the passage of this act, unless he served in an Iowa regiment or was accredited to the State of Iowa. The board of managers shall determine the eligibility of applicants for admission to said Home.

SEC. 3. The general supervision and government of said Soldiers' Home shall be vested in a board of managers, to consist of six members, who shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate, not more than four of whom shall belong to the

4 same political party and no two of whom shall be from the same congressional district, and  
5 no member of the General Assembly shall be eligible to the office. The members of the  
6 board shall hold their office for the respective terms of two, four and six years, from the  
7 first day of March, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, and until their successors shall be  
8 appointed and qualified, said respective terms of office to be designated in their several  
9 appointments, and thereafter there shall be two members of said board appointed every two  
10 years, whose term of office shall continue for six years or until their successors are ap-  
11 pointed or qualified. The Governor shall be a member of said board, *ex-officio*, and shall be  
12 chairman thereof, and shall call a meeting of said board for the purpose of organization  
13 within 30 days after the first appointments are made. No compensation shall be allowed  
14 any member of the board of managers save their actual expenses, and no member of the  
15 board of managers shall be pecuniarily interested or concerned in the establishment of said  
16 Home; *provided, however*, that a building committee may be appointed from the members of  
17 said board, consisting of not more than two persons, whose duty it shall be to visit and in-  
18 spect the buildings at least once in two weeks during their period of construction, and who  
19 may receive in addition to their actual expenses the sum of five dollars for each day so  
20 actually employed. In case of a vacancy in the board of managers by death or any other  
21 cause, the appointing power provided for shall have power to fill the vacancy for the unex-  
22 pired portion of the term. Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the  
23 transaction of business; *provided*, that for the adoption of plans and the letting of con-  
24 tracts for buildings and the selection of a Commandant for said Home, the affirmative vote  
25 of a majority of the entire board shall be required.

SEC. 4. Before entering upon his duties each member of the board of managers shall  
2 take and sign an oath and execute a bond in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)  
3 for the use of the State of Iowa, to be approved by the Executive Council and filed in the  
4 office of the Secretary of State, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties and the  
5 honest and faithful disbursement of and accounting for all moneys appropriated for build-  
6 ing purposes which may come into his hands under the provisions of this act. The said  
7 board, having first taken the oath prescribed for the trustees of said institutions, is hereby  
8 empowered to select and establish with all convenient dispatch a site for the Soldiers'  
9 Home, and for that purpose they are also hereby authorized to receive proposals for the  
10 donation of lands for the location of such Home, in behalf of the State, and for the benefit  
11 of said institution; *provided*, that good and sufficient titles to any land thus granted shall  
12 be obtained by said board before any site shall be fully established. Said board may also  
13 accept, in the name of the State, donations of money and personal property offered for the  
14 purpose of aiding in the establishment of said Home and its future maintenance; but while  
15 such donations may be considered they must not influence the selection of a site to the

16 exclusion of the proper consideration of what is best for the interest of the State, respect-  
17 ing economy, adaption to the wants of the institution, elevation, sewerage and drainage, an  
18 abundant supply of living water, and facilities of access. When the site for the home has  
19 been established, and a deed for the ground procured, which shall not contain less than 40  
20 acres nor more than 320 acres of land, the Board shall immediately deposit a certificate of  
21 their determination with the Auditor of State, which shall be accompanied by deeds of  
22 conveyance and an abstract of title of all lands granted or purchased, together with a state-  
23 ment of any other donations of whatever character that may have been received in consid-  
24 eration of the selection of a location for said home, and the State Treasurer shall then pay  
25 on the warrant of the Auditor to the grantor or grantors such sum of money as the Board  
26 shall certify they have agreed to pay for said land.

SEC 5. Having secured a site for said Home, the Board of Managers shall prepare or  
2 cause to be prepared a plan for the grounds, buildings and fixtures necessary for such insti-  
3 tution, together with specifications and a detailed estimate of some competent architect of  
4 the amount, quality and description of all material and labor required for the erection and  
5 completion of the buildings according to said plans, and shall approve and adopt such  
6 plans only as will not exceed in cost to the State the sum hereinbefore appropriated. Plans  
7 having been adopted, the Board shall forthwith proceed to advertise for thirty days in four  
8 daily papers in the State, one of which shall be published at Des Moines, for proposals for  
9 the erection and furnishing of such parts of the buildings, in accordance with their plans,  
10 as may be necessary to put the said institution in readiness at an early day, for the recep-  
11 tion of such inmates as are hereinbefore declared as entitled to its privileges. Upon the  
12 reception of such proposals the Board may, in their discretion, make contracts with such  
13 bidders as shall make proposals most conducive to the interests of the State, taking into  
14 consideration the price, time of performance and responsibility of the contractor, with such  
15 sureties as he may offer ; which contract when duly executed, shall be deposited in the office  
16 of the State Auditor ; and a duplicate of said contract shall be kept by the secretary or  
17 other proper officer of the Board as a part of the records of the institution. Said Board of  
18 Managers shall employ a competent architect and superintendent of construction who may,  
19 in the discretion of the Board, be the same person, and who shall receive such compensa-  
20 tion as the said Board shall by agreement determine. The accounts of expenditures in the  
21 construction of the buildings shall be certified to by the superintendent and audited and  
22 approved by the Board of Managers, and then paid by warrants of the State Auditor,  
23 drawn in favor of the party to whom payment is due, in the usual manner, and the Board  
24 is authorized to advance and pay on contracts, before the same are fully completed, not ex-  
25 ceeding seventy-five per cent on the estimates of material delivered or labor performed.  
26 All other moneys appropriated by this act shall be drawn quarterly on the requisition of

27 the Board of Managers, in the usual manner, and then only in such amounts as the wants  
28 of the institution may require.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Board of Managers to meet annually on the second  
2 Wednesday in November of each year, and at said annual meeting they shall elect from  
3 their own body, a treasurer and secretary, whose compensation shall be determined by the  
4 Board, and who shall hold office for one year, or until their successors shall be elected and  
5 qualified. The treasurer shall give a bond, which shall be approved by the Board of Man-  
6 agers, for double the amount of money liable to come into his hands at any one time. On  
7 the day following said annual meeting a report, under oath, shall be made to the Legisla-  
8 ture of the financial transactions of the previous year, giving a detailed account of all  
9 money and other property received on account of such home and also of all disbursements.  
10 The Board of Managers shall meet at least once in three months, on the second Wednes-  
11 days in February, May and August, on their own adjournment, and oftener if they deem it  
12 advisable, and shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations, not inconsistent with  
13 the laws and constitution of the State, for the management and government of said Home,  
14 including such rules as they may deem necessary for preserving order, enforcing discipline  
15 and preserving the health of its inmates. If necessary, for the purpose of procuring a  
16 better insight into the practical working of similar homes, and for the better information  
17 of the Board, that may authorize not more than three of their number to visit similar insti-  
18 tutions now in operation that they may have the benefit of their personal observation and  
19 investigation, and the expense actually incurred in any such visit may be charged against  
20 the appropriation hereinbefore made.

SEC. 7. The Board of Managers shall have power and it shall be their duty to appoint a  
2 Commandant for said Home, who shall be an ex-officer, soldier, sailor or marine, whose sal-  
3 ary shall not exceed twelve hundred dollars per annum, and who shall nominate, for the  
4 action of the Board of Managers, all necessary subordinate officers, who shall also be ex-  
5 officers, soldiers, sailors or marines, who may be removed by said Commandant for ineffi-  
6 ency or misconduct; but in case of every removal a detailed statement of the cause shall be  
7 reported to the Board of Managers by the Commandant. The Board of Managers shall  
8 have the power to fix the salary of all subordinate officers: *provided*, the amount so paid  
9 shall not exceed such reasonable compensation as is paid for like service in similar institu-  
10 tions.

SEC. 8. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall take effect and be in  
2 force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and State Leader, news-  
3 papers published at Des Moines, Iowa.