

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SOLDIERS' HOME.

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." Said institution shall be located near the city of Davenport, and shall be possessed for the purposes hereinafter specified, of all the real and personal property now used for the purposes of a Home for Indigent Children.

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); *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 his application for admission therein unless he served in an Iowa regiment or was accredited to the State of Iowa. The board of commissioners shall determine the eligibility of applicants for admission to said Home as herein provided.

SEC. 3. The general supervision and government of said Soldiers' Home shall be vested in a board of commissioners, to consist of six members, who shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate, immediately after the taking effect of this act, not more than four of whom shall belong to the same political party, and no two of whom shall be from the same congressional district, and no member of the General Assembly shall be eligible to the office, but all shall be ex-union soldiers. The members of the board shall hold their office for the respective terms of two, four and six years, from the first day of May, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, and until their successors shall be appointed and qualified, said respective terms of office to be determined by lot, and thereafter there shall be two members of said board appointed every two years during the session of the General Assembly, whose term of office shall continue for six years from the first day of May next ensuing, or until their successors are appointed and qualified. The Governor shall be a member of said board, *ex-officio*, and shall be chairman thereof, and shall call a meeting of said boards for the purpose of organization, within 30 days after the first appointments are made. No compensation shall be allowed any member of the board of commissioners save their actual expenses. In case of a vacancy in the board of commissioners by death or any other cause, the appointing power provided for shall have power to fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; *provided*, that for the selection of a commandant for said Home, the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire board shall be required.

SEC. 4. Before entering upon his duties each member of the board of commissioners
2 shall take and sign an oath and execute a bond in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars
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
5 the honest and faithful disbursement of and accounting for all moneys which may come
6 into his hands under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the board of commissioners to meet annually on the
2 second Wednesday in May of each year, and at said annual meeting they shall elect from
3 their own body a president, treasurer and secretary whose compensation shall be deter-
4 mined by the board, and who shall hold office for one year, or until their successor shall be
5 elected and qualified. The treasurer shall give a bond which shall be approved by the
6 board of commissioners, for double the amount of money liable to come into his hands at
7 any one time. The board of commissioners shall meet at least once in three months, on
8 the second Wednesdays in August, November and February, and oftener if they deem it
9 advisable, and shall have the power to adopt a seal and make rules and regulations, not in-
10 consistent with the laws and constitution of the State, for the management and government
11 of said Home, including such rules as they may deem necessary for the preserving of order,
12 enforcing dicipline and preserving the health of its inmates. If necessary, for the pur-
13 pose of procuring a better insight into the practical working of similar homes, and for the
14 better information of the board, they may authorize not more than three of their number
15 to visit similar institutions now in operation that they may have the benefit of their per-
16 sonal observation and investigation, and the expense actually incurred in any such visit
17 may be charged against the appropriation hereinbefore made. The board of commisioners
18 shall make a full and minute report of all the disbursements of the Home, and of its condi-
19 tion, financial and otherwise, to each regular session of the General Assembly.

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

SEC. 7. 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 the Des Moines Leader,
3 newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.