

CHAPTER 149.

[Published April 8, 1872.]

AN ACT to secure a proper guardianship for children in the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and to extend and more thoroughly secure the benefits of said home; also to repeal chapter 147 of the general laws of 1871, entitled "an act to secure a proper guardianship of children in the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and for other purposes."

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Wards of the state.

SECTION 1. All children who are now or may hereafter become inmates of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, shall become the wards of the state.

Shall be the legal guardians.

SECTION 2. The board of trustees of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home shall, by virtue of their office as trustees, be the legal guardians of all children of the home who now have no legal guardian, and said board are authorized to receive all previous back pay and bounties due or to become due to any child that is now or may hereafter become an inmate of the home, and shall invest the same upon good security, and hold it in trust for the child or children to whom such money belongs.

May bind children out.

And such trustees shall also from time to time, by and with the consent of the governor, bind any child that is an inmate of the home, for such time and for such purpose as such trustees shall deem proper and shall appear to be for the best interest of the child or children so bound respectively: *provided*, that in case any child, an inmate of said home, shall have a parent living, the consent of the parent shall be first obtained, unless such parent be insane or otherwise unfit to have the care, control and custody of such child.

Shall ascertain condition, and provide situations.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of said board of trustees to ascertain the condition and circumstances of all the children who now are or may hereafter become inmates of the home, with a view, if deemed necessary for the best interests of such children or any number of them, of providing them with suitable places, where they may be provided with the advantages of a good home, and taught some trade or occupation, the better to fit them for the duties of life; and said board shall keep and exercise a close supervision over the interests

of any and every child during its minority, who may by virtue of this act be bound out, to the end that the terms of the compact may be faithfully carried out and the interests of the child properly cared for; and said board is hereby authorized to institute inquiries, visit the child or in any way, by them deemed proper, ascertain that this is done; and in case of neglect or unjust treatment, they may remove any child and institute or cause to be instituted, such legal proceedings as may be necessary to recover damages, secure relief for any ill treatment received by any such child so bound out, against the person in whose charge such child has been placed.

Relief in case of unjust treatment.

SECTION 4. The said board of trustees are hereby authorized, by and with the consent of the governor, to receive into the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, the orphan child or children of any soldier who served in the union army in the late rebellion, which child or children, (or) are now inmates [residents] of this state, under the same terms and regulations now in force relative to the admission of orphans of soldiers who enlisted from this state, and any such child or children, when so admitted, shall be entitled to all the advantages and benefits of the home in common with the other inmates: *provided, however*, that no such child shall be admitted to the home when such admission would exclude the orphan child of a Wisconsin soldier.

May receive orphans of any soldier of the union army.

SECTION 5. The board of trustees shall receive no compensation for their services, but all expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties shall be paid out of the state treasury on the warrant of the secretary of state.

No compensation to trustees.

SECTION 6. There is hereby appropriated out of any money in the general fund not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient to carry out the provisions of this act.

Appropriated.

SECTION 7. Chapter 147 of the general laws of 1871, entitled "an act to secure a proper guardianship of children in the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and for other purposes," is hereby repealed, together with all other acts or parts of acts which conflict with the provisions of this act.

Repealed.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved March 25, 1872.