

No. 3, S.]

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CHAPTER 7

AN ACT to amend section 45.10 of the statutes; to repeal section 45.11, and to create sections 45.11, 45.12, 45.14 and 45.15 of the statutes, all relating to soldiers' relief commissions.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 45.10 of the statutes is amended to read:
 45.10 It shall be the duty of every county board to annually levy, in addition to all other taxes, a tax not less than one fifteenth, nor more than one-fifth of one mill upon the value of all taxable property in the county as determined by said board; such tax to be levied and collected as other county taxes for the purpose of * * * *providing relief* * * * to needy soldiers, sailors or marines, who performed military or naval service for the United States in time of war, the indigent wives, widows, minors and * * * *dependent* children of such deceased soldiers, sailors and marines, and the indigent parents of such soldiers, sailors or marines, who have not left surviving them widows or children entitled to relief under the provisions * * * of sections 45.10 to 45.19, inclusive. At the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended balance in such fund shall be transferred to the general fund. * * *

SECTION 2. Section 45.11 of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. Four new sections are added to the statutes to read: 45.11 The chairman of each town board, the board of trustees of each village, and the supervisors of each ward of a city, shall make a written report to the county board of their respective counties, on or before the first day of their annual meeting, containing the names of all resident indigent persons of the classes mentioned in the preceding section in their respective towns, villages or cities, who may require and be entitled to relief thereunder, and the probable amount necessary for that purpose for the ensuing year; and each county board shall, at the November session thereof, make such levy as will raise the necessary amount.

45.12 (1) Every county judge shall on or before the second Monday in December after such report is made, appoint three residents of the county, each of whom shall be an honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine who performed military service for the United States in time of war, one of such appointees to serve three years, one to serve two years, and one to serve one year from the date of appointment, as "The Soldiers' Relief Commission" of such county.

(2) Such commission shall be organized by the election of one of their number as chairman, and one as secretary; said judge after the expiration of the terms of those first appointed, shall annually appoint one person as a member of such commission for the term of three years. He shall require the members of the commission to execute to the county a joint and several bond, with sufficient sureties to be approved by him, in a sum equal to the tax levied in the current year for expenditure by the commission; said bond or bonds shall be filed with the county clerk.

45.14 Such commission shall meet at the office of the county clerk on or before the first Monday of January in each year and at such other times as may be necessary, and at such annual meeting carefully examine the lists reported pursuant to section 45.11, and being satisfied that the persons named on such lists are entitled to assistance shall fix the amount to be paid to each. They may also furnish relief to any person within section 45.10 whose name is not on any such list if the right of such person to relief shall be established to their satisfaction. The secretary of the commission shall make and deposit with the county clerk a list containing the name, place of residence and the amount to be paid each such person whose name is on either such lists, which shall be signed by the chairman and secretary; provided, that the total disbursements made by the commission shall not exceed the amount collected from the tax levied. When such lists are made and filed the county clerk shall issue an order upon the county treasurer for the sum designated therein in each case and deliver it to the person entitled thereto, taking a receipt for the same; provided, that when the commission shall deem it best to furnish relief in a different manner than by supplying money the county clerk shall issue an order upon the county treasurer to the chairman of the commission for such sum as they may have determined upon, and the commission may furnish such supplies as it deems best. The commission shall make a detailed report to the county board at each annual session thereof showing the amount expended and the name of each person who has received aid.

45.15 The county board shall allow the members of the commission the same rate of compensation as is fixed by law for their own compensation and also the amount of their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, on the presentation of an itemized statement thereof; provided, that compensation shall not be allowed for more than four meet-

ings in each year, and that in any county having a population of one hundred thousand or over according to the last previous census the board may fix a salary for the members of the commission, other than the secretary, not exceeding five hundred dollars per annum, which shall be in full for all services and expenses, and which shall be payable at the same time as other salaries are paid; and provided further, that the board of any such county may fix a salary not exceeding one thousand dollars per annum, to be paid out of the county treasury when other salaries are payable therefrom, for the secretary of the commission, which shall be in full for all services rendered and expenses incurred by him except disbursements for stationery and postage.

SECTION 4. Sections 45.11, 45.12, 45.14 and 45.15, created by this act, shall take effect as of the date of the enactment of chapter 542, laws of 1919. All members of all soldiers' relief commissions displaced by enactment of chapter 542, laws of 1919, are hereby reinstated nunc pro tunc as of the date when said chapter took effect, and are reinvested as of said date, with terms, or fractional terms of office, and functions, as though said chapter had never been enacted; and all things done pursuant to any statute repealed by chapter 542, laws of 1919, after such repeal, are hereby validated and confirmed as though said chapter had never been enacted.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved Sept. 8, 1919.