

[No. 1, S.]

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CHAPTER 18.

AN ACT authorizing the burial of the body of any honorably discharged ex-Union soldier, sailor or marine, who shall hereafter die a resident of this state, not leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses.

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

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the county board of supervisors in each county in this state to appoint three suitable persons in each township and ward in their respective counties, whose duty it shall be to look after, and cause to be interred in a decent and respectable manner, in any cemetery or burial ground within this state, other than those used exclusively for the burial of the pauper dead, at an expense not to exceed thirty-five dollars, the body of any honorably discharged ex-Union soldier, sailor or marine, he having at any time served in the army or navy of the United States, who shall hereafter die not leaving means sufficient to defray the necessary expenses of a decent funeral, or who shall die in indigent circumstances, where the family of such soldier, sailor or marine would be distressed by defraying the expenses of burial thereof. Such persons, so appointed, shall hold their appointment so long as they shall serve to the satisfaction of the county board, and whenever a vacancy occurs from any cause, it shall be the duty of the county board to fill such vacancy by the appointment of other suitable persons. Such persons shall serve without pay, and shall be removed by the county board, whenever, in its judgment, it shall be proper so to do.

County authorized to defray expenses of burial of indigent soldier, sailor or marine.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the persons so appointed in the foregoing section, before they assume the charge and expense of any such burial, to first satisfy themselves by a careful inquiry into and examination of all the circumstances in the case, that the family of such deceased soldier, sailor or marine is unable or will be distressed to defray the expenses of such funeral

Persons appointed to first satisfy themselves as to necessity of the demand for aid.

or burial, whereupon, if they find such lack of means to exist, they shall cause the body of such soldier, sailor or marine to be buried as provided in section one of this act, and they shall also immediately report the same to the county clerk of their county, setting forth the fact that they found the family of such deceased soldier, sailor or marine in indigent circumstances, and all the facts upon which they based their action, together with the name, rank and command to which he belonged as soldier, sailor or marine, the date of death, the place where buried, and his occupation while living; and also an accurately itemized statement of the expenses incurred by reason of such burial, the report to be duly attested by three reputable persons, residents of the township or ward in which the deceased soldier, sailor or marine lived, knowing the facts of the indigency of the family and their inability to defray said funeral expenses without distress.

Clerk to lay statement of expense before the county board. —

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of said county clerk to lay said report before said county board at its first meeting after receiving such report and statement of expenses, and such county board shall thereupon, unless such report and statement be fraudulent, audit and allow the same, and direct orders to be drawn upon the county treasurer for the amount of the same, payable to the persons designated in such orders by the county board. It shall also be the duty of the county board, upon the death and burial of any such soldier, sailor or marine residing within their county at the time of his death, to make application to the proper authorities under the general government, for a suitable head-stone, as provided by act of congress, and cause the same to be placed at the head of such deceased soldier's, sailor's or marine's grave.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved February 26, 1885.