

CHAPTER 72.

[Published March 5, 1874.]

AN ACT relating to the government of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home.

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

SECTION 1. The board of trustees of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home are hereby authorized and directed, within six months from the passage of this act, to procure homes in private families according to law, for all children who are, or may become fourteen years of age, within the time specified above, and in case the respective parents or guardians of such children shall fail or refuse to give their consent in writing to the acts of the board in the procurement of homes as aforesaid, the said board of trustees shall return such children to their legal guardians or parents.

Homes to be provided for all soldier's orphans over fourteen years old.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the board of trustees to ascertain, by personal examination or otherwise, whether the mother or legal guardian of any child, or children, under fourteen years of age, who may upon the passage of this act be inmates of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, are suitable and proper persons to be intrusted with the care and custody of such child, or children, and if it shall be ascertained that such mother, or legal guardians, are suitable and proper persons to be intrusted with the care and custody of such children, it shall be the duty of the said board of trustees, and they are hereby authorized to contract with such mother, or legal guardian, for the care and maintenance of such child or children, until they shall have reached the age of fourteen years, and for this purpose the said board of trustees are authorized to pay to such mother, or legal guardian, for such care and maintenance, the sum of five dollars per month, for such child so maintained, the same to be paid quarterly out of any moneys which have been, or may be appropriated for the current expenses of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home; *provided*, that the said board of trustees may, in their discretion, withhold one-half the above sum until satisfactory proof shall have been furnished that the said child, or children, have been in regular attendance at school for at least four months in each year, or have been prevented by sickness from thus attending school.

Duty of the board.

Pay to mother or guardian of such children.

Penalty for not sending child to school.

In absence of relatives, such children may be sent to some private orphan asylum.

SECTION 3. In case of children who have no mother or legal guardian, or where such mother or legal guardian are not suitable persons to have the charge of such children, it shall be the duty of the trustees to find a home with the relatives of the children, if they have relatives within the state, who are suitable persons, and if not, with other persons, or failing to find homes for such children in private families, within six months after the passage of this act, the said board of trustees are authorized to contract for the care and maintenance of such children in some of the private orphan asylums in this state, until such children shall have reached the age of fourteen years, and for this purpose the board of trustees shall have power and they are hereby authorized to pay for each child thus maintained, the sum of six dollars per month, in the same manner, subject to the same provisions as specified in section one of this act.

Pay therefor.

Trustees reserve right to annul contracts, for cause.

SECTION 4. In all cases where contracts shall be entered into for the care and maintenance of orphan inmates of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, the trustees shall reserve the right to annul such contracts and reserve the custody of such orphans whenever they shall become satisfied that the interests of the child or children will be subserved thereby, and nothing in this act or in any contract entered into, shall prevent the board of trustees from exercising a general supervision over said children, and adopting such measures as they may deem for their best interests.

Trustees to report.

SECTION 5. The said board of trustees shall furnish to each parent or legal guardian of children who may, upon the passage of this act, be inmates of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, a copy of this act, and shall include in their annual report to the governor a full statement of all their actions under the provisions of this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from after its passage and publication.

Approved February 28, 1874.