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AN ACT

FOR THE

Relief of Families of Soldiers and Sailors

FROM VIRGINIA,

WITHIN THE LINES OF THE ENEMY,

AND

REGULATIONS

FOR THE

GOVERNMENT OF AGENTS IN DISTRIBUTING THE FUND.

1864.

Law
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AN ACT

For the Relief of Families of Soldiers living in Counties within the Lines or under the Control of the Enemy.

Passed February 20, 1864

1. Be it enacted by the general assembly, that the sum of one million dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for the relief of the needy families of soldiers and sailors in the confederate service from the state of Virginia, residing in counties within the lines or the power of the enemy, as herein after provided.

2. The auditor, second auditor and secretary of the commonwealth are hereby appointed commissioners, to act without compensation, to attend to the apportionment and expenditure of said money; and they are hereby authorized to appoint agents for the several counties, to expend such sums as the commissioners may allot to them, for the relief of the needy families of such soldiers and sailors residing in their respective counties or corporations, and for the needy families of those who have been disabled or honorably discharged, and of the needy widows and minor children of such as may have died or may hereafter die; and shall take bond and security from such agents, payable to the commonwealth, in a sufficient penalty, for the performance of the trust reposed in them; and shall require said agents to return an account of such expenditure, showing the amount expended for each family: and shall make such regulations as they may think proper, to prevent fraud and secure a faithful, just and equitable distribution of said funds among the several counties, and among the families in such county: provided, that the widowed mother and her family shall be considered as the family of a son who has been killed or disabled, or who has died in the service: and provided further, that the provisions of this act shall also be extended to the classes of persons named therein who may not reside within the lines of the enemy, but upon neutral ground, or in such relation thereto as that, in the opinion of said commissioners, the county courts of the counties in which they reside cannot afford them relief under existing laws: and provided further, that the agents appointed for the several counties shall be residents of the county for which they are appointed, and are over forty-five years

of age, or not subject to military service: and provided further, that where the money cannot be distributed on account of the enemy, it shall be retained in the hands of the proper agents until such time as it can be so distributed.

3 In order to raise funds available for the purposes of this act, the said commissioners are hereby empowered to direct the issue of coupon or registered bonds of this commonwealth, bearing six per centum interest per annum, authenticated in the manner prescribed in the second section of the sixty-seventh chapter of the Code of Virginia (edition of eighteen hundred and sixty), to such an amount as may be necessary, not exceeding the sum of five hundred thousand dollars; and said commissioners are directed to effect an exchange of said bonds for at least an equal amount of the notes of the banks of this commonwealth, with said banks or others; and the notes thus obtained are to be applied exclusively to the support of needy families in those counties where, from the presence of the public enemy, confederate treasury notes cannot be used. The said commissioners shall use confederate or Virginia treasury notes wherever they can, and shall draw orders on the auditor of public accounts, who shall issue his warrant on the treasurer therefor: provided the whole amount of bonds issued and treasury notes paid shall not together exceed the amount appropriated in the first section of this act.

4 The commissioners shall report their proceedings under this act to the next session of the general assembly.

5 This act shall be in force from its passage.

A copy from the rolls--Teste,

WM. F. GORDON, JR.
C. H. D. & K. of R.

REGULATIONS

For the Government of the Agents appointed by the Commissioners, under the Act passed February 20, 1864, for the Relief of Needy Families of Soldiers and Sailors of the State of Virginia.

1. The agents must be residents of the counties for which they are appointed; must be over forty-five years of age, or not subject to military service.

2. They must each execute a bond with security, payable to the commonwealth, in a penalty of ten thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in them.

3. The said agents shall keep regular accounts, showing the amount received under the act, and the amount expended, specifying to whom paid; the sum paid for each member of a family; how many persons constitute the family, and whose family it is or was; and shall return to the board at Richmond, quarterly, the full statements herein required.

4. As soon as any agent shall be appointed, it shall be his duty to ascertain the number of persons in his county who may be entitled to relief under the act, and to apportion the amount of money allotted to such agent among the persons entitled, ascertaining the amount which should be assigned to each grown person, and how much to each child, and then giving to each individual not having a family the amount allotted to him or her, and to the head of each family the amount due to each grown person in the family, and to each child therein. Where the agent cannot ascertain in any county the whole number of families entitled, he shall retain in the distribution a sufficient amount in his hands to be applied to such person or persons as he may thereafter ascertain to be entitled

5. When any sum of money is paid to any person or to any head of a family, a proper receipt shall be taken; which shall be preserved by the agent, and shall constitute a voucher to sustain and settle his accounts, and shall be returned by him to the board, with their quarterly statements.

6. The persons entitled to the fund assigned to each county shall be the following :

The needy widow, and the minor children of such soldiers or sailors as may have been killed in battle, or may have otherwise died, or may hereafter be killed in battle, or may hereafter otherwise die.

Any needy female adult child of such deceased party having no husband, or who may have been dependent upon such deceased party, and unable to obtain her own support.

The needy family of soldiers or sailors in service, where the families are residing in the county or corporation which is in the hands of the enemy.

The needy families of those who have been disabled or honorably discharged.

The widowed mother and her family are to be considered as a part of the family of a son who has been killed, disabled, discharged, or who has died, even though the son may have a family of his own.

Persons who do not reside within the lines of the enemy, but upon neutral ground, are to be entitled to relief as well as those within the said lines; but no person is to receive relief under the act, if the county courts of the counties in which they reside can afford them relief under existing laws.

7. Agents, after executing their bonds, and after they have been approved, must return the same to the second auditor of Virginia, to be preserved by him, with authority to sue, and compel a proper account and a full settlement of all balances remaining on hand, when thereto required.

The following form and authentication of bond is to be used :

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we
of the county of _____, are held and firmly bound unto the commonwealth of Virginia in the just and full sum of ten thousand dollars; to the payment whereof, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs and personal representatives, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Witness our hands and seals this _____ day of _____ 18

THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That whereas the above _____ has been appointed, by the commissioners appointed by the act passed 20th February 1864, for the relief of soldiers, &c., agent to expend the amount that may be allotted to the county of _____

Now, if the said _____ shall faithfully discharge the duties of his appointment according to law, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

[Seal.]

[Seal.]

COUNTY:

_____ personally appeared before me, and acknowledged the above bond to be their act and deed; and the said _____ surety made oath that he (or they) are worth the penalty of the bond, after his (or their) debts, or those for which he (or they) are bound, are paid.

Given under my hand this _____ day of _____

The acknowledgment may be taken by a justice or notary public.

9. County agents may appoint sub-agents within their respective counties, to aid in the distribution of the fund; but in all such cases, the county agent will be held responsible upon his official bond for the faithful performance of the duties of such sub-agent.

J. M. BENNETT,

H. W. THOMAS,

G. W. MUNFORD,

Commissioners.

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