

CHAPTER 198

MINNESOTA SOLDIERS HOME

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198.01 SOLDIERS' HOME; ADMISSION TO. The Minnesota Soldiers Home shall be maintained at Minneapolis, under the management of seven trustees, one of whom shall be a woman, to be known as the Soldiers Home Board, as a home for all honorably discharged persons who served in the Mexican War, the War of the Rebellion, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Boxer Rebellion, the war of 1917 and 1918 commonly called the World War, or the War between the United States of America and its allies, and Germany, Japan, Italy and their allies, persons who actually served in any campaign against the Indians in this state in the year 1862, whether as soldiers of the United States or not, for honorably discharged members of the Minnesota National Guard mustered into Federal Service in 1916 who served on the Mexican border, and for all honorably discharged persons who served between September 16, 1940, and December 7, 1941, both dates inclusive. No person shall be admitted to the home who has not been a resident of the state for three years next preceding the date of his application, unless he served in a Minnesota regiment, or was credited to the state, or served in the Indian Campaign as aforesaid; nor shall any person be admitted unless he is without adequate means of support, and is unable, by reason of wounds, disease, old age, or infirmity to properly maintain himself.

[R. L. s. 1835; 1931 c. 176; 1943 c. 54 s. 1] (4344)

198.02 PERSONS ADMITTED TO SOLDIERS' HOME. The object of the soldiers' home shall be to provide a home for all honorably discharged ex-soldiers, sailors, and marines who served in the army or navy of the United States during the war of the rebellion, or the Mexican war, or in the war begun in the year 1898 between the Kingdom of Spain and the United States, or the Philippine insurrection, or the Boxer rebellion, or members of the Minnesota national guard mustered into federal service in 1916 and served on the Mexican border, or the war of 1917 and 1918 commonly called the "world war," who now are or may hereafter become citizens of the state of Minnesota.

All persons who are otherwise entitled under the provisions unable to earn their living, who, by reason of wounds, disease, or old age or infirmities, are unable to earn their living, and who have no adequate means of support.

No applicant shall be admitted to the soldiers' home who has not been a resident of the state for three years next preceding the time of having his application, unless he served in a Minnesota regiment or was accredited to the state.

All persons who are otherwise entitled under the provisions of this section to admission to the soldiers' home who actually served in any campaign against the Indians within the United States shall be entitled to admission to such soldiers' home, notwithstanding such person was not regularly enlisted, mustered into, or discharged from the military service of the United States.

The board of trustees is hereby authorized to admit wives with their husbands, and the widows or mothers of those who are, or if living would be, eligible to admission under this chapter, but no wife or widow of a soldier of the war of the

rebellion or of a soldier who actually served in any campaign against the Indians within the United States shall be admitted unless she shall have been married to her soldier husband prior to the year 1905, and no wife or widow of an honorably discharged ex-soldier, sailor, or marine, who served in the army or navy of the United States in the war begun in the year 1898 between the Kingdom of Spain and the United States, or the Philippine insurrection, or the Boxer rebellion, or members of the Minnesota national guard mustered into federal service in 1916 and served on the Mexican border, shall be admitted unless she shall have been married to her soldier husband prior to the year September 1, 1922; and then only in the event that by reason of physical disabilities, infirmities or old age she is unable to support herself and has no other adequate means of support; and no wife, widow or mother shall be admitted unless she shall have been a resident of the state of Minnesota no less than five years next preceding the date of her application, and no wife, widow or mother shall be admitted unless she shall have attained the age of 55 years at the time of making such application. A widow eligible to admission, except that her soldier husband did not serve in a Minnesota regiment or was not a resident of Minnesota at time of his death, may be admitted, who has resided in this state not less than 15 years next preceding the date of her application for admission. In case such widow had been married to her soldier husband who was a veteran of the civil war, since prior to January 1, 1870, and had lived with her husband until his death in 1919, and such widow is now past 80 years of age and has been a bona fide resident of the state for more than six years last past and is otherwise eligible to admission, is hereby declared to be eligible to admittance to the soldiers' home of the state of Minnesota. In case such wife, widow, or mother who had previously been a resident of Minnesota for not less than ten years, and who has lost her residence in this state by removal therefrom for the benefit of her health or the health of her husband or son and who has returned to this state for the purpose of making it her home, may be admitted to the soldiers' home after having been a resident of this state not less than one year next preceding the date of her application, provided, such applicant is otherwise eligible to admission under the provisions of this section.

All soldiers of the Minnesota national guard who heretofore have lost or hereafter may lose an arm or leg or his sight or may become permanently disabled from any cause while in the line and discharge of duty and are not able to support themselves, may be admitted to the home under such rules and regulations as the board of trustees may adopt, and any soldier of the Minnesota national guard suffering from illness or injury sustained from any cause in the line and discharge of military duty shall be admitted to the soldiers' home hospital for medical treatment and hospital service until recovery from such illness or injury under such rules and regulations as the board of trustees may adopt.

[1887 c. 148 s. 3; 1899 c. 166 s. 1; 1905 c. 222 s. 1; 1915 c. 259 s. 1; 1917 c. 205 s. 1; 1919 c. 79 s. 1; 1925 c. 168 s. 1; 1929 c. 333; 1931 c. 349; 1933 c. 66 s. 1] (4345)

198.03 WHEN COMPENSATION MUST BE PAID. Any person possessing all the qualifications required under now or hereafter existing laws to render him eligible to admission to the Minnesota soldiers' home, except that he has means of support, may, nevertheless, in the discretion of the soldiers' home board, be admitted to the Minnesota soldiers' home upon entering into and complying with the terms of a contract made by him with such board, providing for reasonable compensation to be paid by such person to the state of Minnesota for his care, support, and maintenance in the home.

[1923 c. 13] (4346)

198.04 ADMISSION OF WOMEN NURSES. In addition to the persons eligible to admission to the Minnesota soldiers' home under existing laws, the trustees of the soldiers' home are hereby authorized to admit to the home any woman who is more than 65 years of age and who was regularly employed under the jurisdiction of the authorities of the Union army in charge of the hospital services thereof as a nurse for the soldiers of the Union army for a period of one year during the war of the rebellion, and who has been a resident of the state for a period of five years next preceding her application to such home.

[1913 c. 286 s. 1] (4347)

198.05 NEW BUILDINGS. The department of administration shall have and exercise full authority in the erection and construction of new buildings at the soldiers' home. When new buildings are to be erected and constructed by authority of the state or old buildings to be remodeled it shall be the duty of the department of administration to cause to be prepared plans and specifications for the same, but in so doing it shall consult with the trustees of the soldiers' home in respect to these plans and specifications and shall adopt and carry out, so far as it deems practicable, their requests and desires in the matter.

[1913 c. 88 s. 1] (4348)

198.06 TRUSTEES; COMPENSATION; BOND. The trustees of the soldiers' home board shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate, each for a term of six years, and until his successor qualifies. Vacancies shall be filled by like appointment for unexpired terms. They shall receive as compensation for their services in attending meetings of the board and meetings of any committee thereof the sum of \$10 per day for each such meeting day so attended, and in addition thereto actual expenses incurred in attending such meeting. Claims for such compensation shall be paid by the state treasurer from the money provided for the support of the soldiers' home upon itemized and verified vouchers approved by the president and secretary, after audit by the state auditor. Not more than four of the trustees shall be members of the same political party, and in the selection of trustees, officers of the home, and employees of the board, preference shall be given to honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines. Each trustee shall give a bond to the state in the penal sum of \$5,000, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties and economical expenditure of the funds provided for hereunder. The trustee who shall be selected by the board as treasurer of the home shall give an additional bond to the state in such sum as may be designated by the board of trustees, conditional that such treasurer shall account for and pay over, according to the directions of the board, all moneys or other property which may come into his possession with the consent of the inmates from the inmates of such home as such treasurer. The surety on such treasurer's bond may be any surety company that is authorized to contract as such by the laws of this state, and the cost thereof shall be paid out of the home support fund.

[R. L. s. 1836; 1907 c. 326 s. 1; 1917 c. 188 s. 1; 1919 c. 131 s. 1] (4349)

198.07 PRESIDENT; SECRETARY; TREASURER; DUTIES. The soldiers' home board shall appoint a secretary, and elect from its members a president, a treasurer of the home, and an executive committee of three. The same person may hold the positions of treasurer and president. The secretary shall record its transactions and keep books, records and accounts, showing the administration of the soldiers' home and relief funds, and all facts of public interest relating to the home. He shall receive such salary as the board shall designate. The state treasurer shall be ex officio the treasurer of the board. The board shall adopt and enforce rules for the government of the home and proper by-laws for the conduct of its business, and, with the approval of the governor, may also make rules not inconsistent with this chapter, respecting the admission, maintenance, and discharge of inmates, and the disbursements of the funds under its control.

[R. L. s. 1837; 1907 c. 326 s. 2; 1919 c. 83 s. 1; 1925 c. 128] (4350)

198.08 MEETINGS; EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The annual meeting of the soldiers' home board shall be held on the second Tuesday of August, and a semi-annual meeting on the second Tuesday of February, at which times the trustees shall examine into the condition of the inmates of the home, and of all others under their care. A special meeting for a designated purpose may be called at any time by the president or by any two of the trustees. The executive committee shall meet at least once each month, and, when assembled, may exercise such powers of the board as the by-laws shall permit. The principal office of the board, and the place of its meetings, shall be at the home.

[R. L. s. 1838] (4351)

198.09 OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES. The soldiers' home board shall appoint a commandant for such term as it may deem proper, who, under its direction, shall have immediate charge of the home. He shall nominate for approval by the board all necessary subordinate officials and employees, and may suspend any of them

for inefficiency or misconduct. The grounds for such suspension shall be reported to the board, whose decision, after a hearing thereon, shall be final. The pay of the commandant and of each of his subordinates shall be prescribed by the board, not exceeding the reasonable amounts paid for similar services in other institutions of the state.

[R. L. s. 1839] (4352)

198.10 SOLDIERS' HOME FUND; STANDING APPROPRIATION. The sum of \$20,000 is hereby appropriated annually for the support of the home and its inmates, which sum, together with all other moneys provided for the same purposes from time to time, shall be kept separate from the relief fund established by sections 198.11 and 198.12, and be known as the "soldiers' home fund."

[R. L. s. 1840] (4353)

198.11 RELIEF FUND; TRANSFERS. The state auditor shall add to the state tax levy, annually, one-tenth of a mill on each dollar of the assessed value of taxable property, the proceeds whereof shall constitute a soldiers' relief fund, to be administered by the soldiers' home board as hereinafter provided. When all of the members of such board shall unite in a written request so to do, the auditor and treasurer shall transfer from the soldiers' home fund to the soldiers' relief fund, or from the latter to the former, any sum specified in such request.

[R. L. s. 1841] (4354)

198.12 RELIEF FUND, HOW USED. Such relief fund shall be expended, under the direction of the soldiers' home board, for the relief outside of the home of persons entitled to be admitted; the deserted wives of such persons if worthy; the widows and dependent parents of such as have died; and the deserted or orphaned children of such wives or widows, under the age of 16 years. The granting of such relief, and the extent and character thereof, shall in all cases be in the discretion of the board, and subject to such terms as it may prescribe.

[R. L. s. 1842] (4355)

198.13 COUNTY AGENTS. The soldiers' home board may designate one person in each county, or part of a county, to whom applications for relief shall be made, and through whom the applicant shall communicate with it concerning the same; and each auditor, when necessary, shall assist in obtaining and applying such relief within his county. No compensation shall be paid to any person for the services mentioned in this section.

[R. L. s. 1843] (4356)

198.14 TRANSPORTATION. When it is made to appear that any person entitled to admission to the home is without means to pay the expenses of travel thereto, the president of the soldiers' home board shall furnish transportation to such person without unnecessary delay, and the cost thereof shall be paid out of the soldiers' home fund. A joint request for such transportation from a county agent of the board and commander or adjutant of a post of the grand army of the republic situated in the county shall be sufficient, in the absence of reasons to the contrary, to warrant such expenditure.

[R. L. s. 1844] (4357)

198.15 MONEYS, HOW DISBURSED. All disbursements from the funds herein provided for shall be by the state treasurer upon auditor's warrants, payable to the persons entitled thereto. Such warrants shall be issued only upon itemized vouchers furnished by the board, signed by its president and secretary, and designating the purpose of the expenditure, and the fund from which each is payable.

[R. L. s. 1845] (4358)

198.16 DONATIONS; REPORTS. The Soldiers Home Board is hereby authorized to accept in behalf of the state any gift, grant, bequest, or devise made for the purposes of this chapter, and administer the same as directed by the donor. All proceeds therefrom including moneys derived from the sale of any real or personal property shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the Soldiers Home Endowment, bequest, and devises fund which is hereby created. Said fund shall consist of two accounts, one of which shall include any trusts prescribed by the donor, the other shall include any currently expendable proceeds. Disbursements from this fund shall be made by the state treasurer upon warrants of the state auditor in the manner provided for the issuance of other state warrants.

Whenever the Soldiers Home Board shall deem it advisable, in accordance with law, to sell or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property thus acquired, the commissioner upon the request of the board shall sell or otherwise dispose of said property in the manner provided by law for the sale or disposition of other state property by the commissioner of administration.

At each biennial meeting the board shall report to the governor all its proceedings during the preceding two years, which report, with such information and recommendations concerning its work as the board may deem proper, shall be submitted to the legislature in print at its next regular session.

[R. L. s. 1846; 1913 c. 170 s. 1; 1945 c. 444 s. 1] (4359)

198.17 INMATES TO RETAIN PENSION. The soldiers' home board shall not make or enforce any rule, regulation, or by-law, requiring any applicant for admission to, or any inmate of, the Minnesota soldiers' home to pay or to promise or agree to pay, his United States pension, or any part thereof, or to pay any sum in any manner, to the soldiers' home or to any board or officer or employee thereof, or to any department or fund thereof or appertaining thereto, or to part with or to promise to part with such pension, or any part thereof, or of any sum of money, as a condition of admission to such soldiers' home, or as a condition of remaining an inmate thereof, or as a condition of or as payment for granting or according to such inmate, or to such applicant, if admitted, any ordinary or special attention or service in or in connection with such home.

[1911 c. 150 s. 1] (4360)

198.18 EMPLOYEES NOT TO RECEIVE ANY PART OF PENSION. No servant, agent, or employee of the Minnesota soldiers' home shall accept or receive any part of the United States pension of such applicant or inmate, or any sum of money in any manner in any case mentioned in section 198.17 wherein the soldiers, from any applicant for membership in, or from any inmate of, such soldiers' home board is prohibited from requiring payment or promise of payment thereof from such applicant or inmate.

[1911 c. 150 s. 2] (4361)

198.19 WIFE OR DEPENDENT CHILDREN. Sections 198.17 to 198.21 shall not be construed in such a manner as to prevent or prohibit the soldiers' home board from making and enforcing a regulation requiring inmates of such soldiers' home to pay to such board of managers for the support of the wife or dependent children of such inmate all or any part of the United States pension received by such inmate in excess of the sum of \$4.00 per month.

[1911 c. 150 s. 3] (4362)

198.20 VIOLATION A MISDEMEANOR. Any agent, officer, employee, or servant of such soldiers' home or soldiers' home board violating any provision of sections 198.17 to 198.21 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be forthwith discharged from any position in connection with such soldiers' home.

[1911 c. 150 s. 4] (4363)

198.21 WIFE OR DEPENDENT CHILDREN; DISPOSAL OF PENSIONS; RELIEF. If such applicant or if any inmate of such home has a wife or children dependent upon him for support, the soldiers' home board may, in its discretion, require that any such applicant or inmate, who receives a United States pension exceeding \$4.00 per month, shall pay not to exceed one-half thereof, to be determined by such board of managers, for the support and maintenance of such wife or dependent children. Such board may, in addition, grant to such dependents a monthly allowance from the relief fund in such sum as shall be determined by such board.

[R. L. s. 1847; 1911 c. 150 s. 5] (4364)

198.22 SOLDIERS' HOME RELIEF EXTENDED. In addition to the persons to whom the soldiers' home board is now authorized to extend relief outside the Minnesota soldiers' home from the soldiers' relief fund, the board is hereby authorized to extend relief, outside the home, to the widow, deserted wife, or any minor child under 14 years of age, of any honorably discharged ex-soldier, ex-sailor, or ex-marine who served in the army or navy of the United States during the war of the rebellion, war with Spain, Philippine insurrection, China relief expedition, or world war; provided, any such widow or deserted wife is more than 55 years of age and shall have married her soldier husband prior to the year 1903; provided, that

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no such relief shall be granted under the provisions of this section to any person unless he shall have been a resident of the state for at least five years next preceding his application for such relief. The granting of such relief and the extent and character thereof shall in all cases be in the discretion of the board and subject to such terms as it may prescribe.

[1913 c. 186 s. 1; 1927 c. 285; 1929 c. 79] (4365)

198.23 PERSONAL PROPERTY OF INMATES; WILL. As a condition of his admission to the home, every person shall execute his will, and deposit the same with the secretary, disposing of any personal property of which he may die possessed. Upon the decease of any such testator, the board shall cause such of his personal estate as may be left in his possession to be disposed of pursuant to the will, without probate thereof or other proceedings thereon. All property of the deceased inmate not so bequeathed by will, and remaining at home, unclaimed, for one year after his death, shall be inventoried, appraised, and sold, and the proceeds thereof paid into the state treasury to the credit of the soldiers' home fund.

[R. L. s. 1848] (4366)