

TEXT OF THE ILLINOIS STATE BONUS ACT

An act to provide payment of compensation to certain persons who served with the military or naval forces of the United States in the recent war with Germany.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: Every person who was enlisted, inducted, warranted or commissioned, and who served honorably in active duty in the military or naval service of the United States at any time between the sixth day of April, 1917, and the eleventh day of November, 1918, and who, at the time of entering such service, was a resident of the State of Illinois, and who is honorably separated or discharged from such service, or who is still in active service, or has been retired, or has been furloughed to a reserve, and who was in such service for a period longer than two months, shall be entitled to receive from the Soldiers' Compensation Fund, of the State treasury, compensation of fifty cents for each day that such person was in active service after April 6, 1917, but not exceeding a total of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

2. The husband or wife (if not married), child or children, mother, father, brother or sister, in the order named, of any deceased person who served honorably in active duty in the military or naval forces of the United States, as provided in section 1, shall be paid the sum or allowance that such deceased person would be entitled to, under the provisions of this Act, if living. In case such deceased person died while in the service, the sum to be paid under this section shall be three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

3. No payment shall be made under the provisions of this Act to any person.

(1) Who was dishonorably discharged or discharged without honor; or

(2) Who being in the military or naval service, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or to render unqualified service; or

(3) Who, though in the service, did civilian work at civilian pay; or

(4) Who has received from another state a bonus or compensation of a like nature, as is provided by this Act; or

(5) For time spent while taking training in any students' army or navy corps.

4. No assignment of any right or claim to compensation, under the provisions of this Act, shall be valid.

5. The Service Recognition Board is created, to consist of the Governor, the State Treasurer, and the Adjutant General. This board shall have complete charge and control of the general scheme of payments authorized in this Act and may adopt general rules for the making of such payments, the ascertainment and selection of proper beneficiaries and the amount to which such beneficiaries are entitled, and for procedure. The Service Recognition Board shall adopt general rules for determining the question of whether an applicant was a resident of this State at the time he entered the service; and shall prescribe by rule, the nature of the proof to be submitted to establish the fact of residence.

6. The Service Recognition Board may select and appoint such employees as it may deem necessary, always giving preference in making such appointments to persons entitled to compensation under this Act. The employees of the Service Recognition Board shall not be subject to the provisions of "An Act to regulate the civil service of the State of Illinois," approved May 11, 1905, in force July 1, 1905, as amended for compensation under this Act must be made to the Service Recognition Board before January 1, 1925, and no payments shall be made under this Act except on applications received by the Service Recognition Board before that date.

7. The State of Illinois through its officers is hereby authorized to issue and sell, and provide for the retirement of bonds of the State of Illinois to the amount of fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000.00) for the purpose

of providing funds for making the payments provided for in this Act. The issuance, sale and retirement of these bonds shall be under the general supervision and control of the Service Recognition Board.

8. These bonds shall bear interest, payable annually, from the date of their issue, at the rate of three and one-half per centum per annum, unless financial conditions make a different rate advisable, in which case the Service Recognition Board may issue part or all of said bonds at any other rate of interest not exceeding six per centum per annum; they shall be serial bonds and be dated, issued and sold from time to time in such amounts as may be necessary to provide sufficient money to make payments provided for in this Act. Each one of these bonds shall be in the denomination of \$100.00 or some multiple thereof, and shall be made payable within twenty years from the date of its issue. These bonds shall be signed by the Governor and attested by the Secretary of State under the seal of the State and countersigned by the State Treasurer and by the Auditor of Public Accounts. Interest coupons with lithographed facsimile signatures of such officers may be attached to said bonds. Such bonds may, at the request of owners, be registered with the Auditor of Public Accounts. These bonds, until sold, shall be deposited with the State Treasurer; and when sold, the proceeds of the bonds shall be paid into the State treasury and kept in a separate fund which shall be known as the Soldiers' Compensation Fund.

9. For the purpose of making the payments provided for in this Act the sum of fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000.00) to be derived from the sale of such bonds, is hereby appropriated to the Service Recognition Board, such money to be payable out of the Soldiers' Compensation Fund, in accordance with the provisions of "An Act in relation to State finance," approved June 10, 1919, in force July 1, 1919. If any person entitled to compensation shall so desire, he may receive payment in whole or part, in bonds which are authorized to be issued by this Act.

10. After all payments provided for in this Act have been made, any money remaining in the Soldiers' Compensation Fund in the State treasury may be expended by the Service Recognition Board for any form of relief for veterans of the late war with Germany, or their families, that the General Assembly may specify and as it shall direct, and not otherwise.

11. Each year, after this Act becomes fully operative, and until all of the bonds herein provided for, have been retired there shall be included in and added to the tax levied for State purposes, a direct annual tax for such amount as shall be necessary and sufficient to pay the interest annually, as it shall accrue, on all bonds issued under the provisions of this Act and also to pay and discharge the principal of such bonds at par value as such bonds fall due; and the amounts of such direct annual tax shall be appropriated for that specific purpose. But no such direct annual tax shall be levied for any year in which a sufficient amount of money from other sources of revenue has been appropriated and set apart to pay the interest, as it shall accrue, on said bonds for that year and also to discharge the principal of any of such bonds falling due during such year. There is hereby created a special fund in the State treasury to be known as Soldiers' Compensation Bond Interest and Retirement Fund, into which fund shall be paid such direct annual tax as it may be collected.

12. The proposition of contracting the debt of \$55,000,000.00 and issuing bonds to that amount and of levying annually a direct tax sufficient to pay the interest on such bonds as it accrues and to pay off and discharge the principal of such bonds within twenty years from issuance, in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall be submitted to the People of the State at the general election to be held on Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, A. D. 1922, on a separate ballot.

14. The provisions of this Act for the payment of the principal of said bonds at maturity and of the interest thereon annually, as it shall accrue, by a direct annual tax, shall be irrevocable until such debt and interest is paid in full, and for the making of such payment the faith of the State of Illinois is hereby pledged.

15. The provisions of this Act for contracting the debt of \$55,000,000.00 and issuing bonds to that amount and for levying annually a tax to pay the interest and principal of these bonds as herein provided, shall go into full force and effect upon receiving at the general election at which it is submitted, the majority of votes required by Section 18, Article IV of the Constitution.

Approved May 3, 1921.

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