

**AN ACT to Put Upon the Honor Roll All Confederate Soldiers and Sailors and Widows of Confederate Soldiers and Sailors, and Compensate Them for Services Rendered from 1861 to 1865.**

Section 1. State Confederate Pension Department Established—Personnel—Commissioner.—Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, That there is hereby created a department of the State government to be known as the Confederate Pension Department, which shall be under the direction and control of the Board of Commissioners, consisting of seven members, one from each Congressional District, who shall be Confederate soldiers, to wit: D. VV. McLaurin, John Ahrens, Alfred Aldrich, B. C. Johnson, George M. Hannah, J. E. Craig and John C. Sellers, together with the Commissioner hereafter provided for, who shall constitute the Board. Said Board shall elect a suitable person, Confederate veteran, and recommend him to the Governor, who shall appoint and commission him as State Commissioner, who shall hold office for four years and until his successor shall be appointed and qualifies. Said Commissioner shall be *ex officio* member of said Board, and shall preside at all meetings, and shall vote only in case of a tie. All vacancies in said Board shall be filled by an appointment of the Governor of a Confederate veteran recommended by the United Confederate Veterans of South Carolina. The said Board shall prescribe such rules and regulations, and prescribe forms from all blanks, circulars and other literature, as may be necessary to enroll and classify all enrollments, and to apportion under such classes all sums that may be appropriated for such purposes.

§ 2. County Pension Boards.—That a County Board shall be created, consisting of three Confederate veterans, who shall be named by the Commissioner of Pensions, and their duties shall be defined by the State Board of Commissioners.

§ 3. Powers of Commissioner.—The said Commissioner shall have power to decide all questions arising under this Act, and his decision shall be final: Provided, That any applicant who may not be satisfied with his rulings or findings may appeal to the Board of Commissioners.

§ 4. State Pension Office.—The State Pension Office shall be located in the city of Columbia, in such rooms as may be procured by the Commissioner. The necessary furnishings for such rooms, records, books, blanks, stationery, postage, stamps, fixtures and supplies shall be furnished as in other departments of the State.

§ 5. Compensation.—The salary of the Commissioner shall be \$2,000.00 per annum, and he shall have power to appoint an office force, which shall cost not exceeding \$2,000.00 for the first year, and these salaries shall be paid as in other departments of the State government.

§ 6. Enrollment.—That any soldier or sailor, a resident of the State for five years, who served in the Confederate States Army or Navy, or who in the State Militia performed actual service, and who did not desert the service of the State of South Carolina or of the Confederate States, or the widow of such soldier who was married prior to January, 1890, shall be entitled to enrollment, if she has attained the age of sixty years, who was

living with him as his faithful wife at the time of his death. The compensation of such soldiers and sailors shall be classified and fixed by the State Board of Commissioners.

§ 7. Effect of Death of Pensioner—Application for Pension.—When a pensioner dies the amount due decedent shall be paid to his widow, if living. Application for pension shall be made in duplicate, under oath, substantially in form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Pensions, and shall be attested by two responsible witnesses as to the identity and the service of the applicant; the application shall be filed with the County Board of Commissioners of the county in which applicant resides. The County Board of Commissioners shall make the finding of facts as shown by the evidence and forward same with memoranda of the testimony of witnesses, together with their own recommendations as to the merits of the same, to the Pension Commissioner, the duplicate to remain on file in their office; should the applicant not be satisfied with findings of the County Board, he shall have the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Pensions.

§ 8. False Swearing Upon Applications Perjury—Investigations.—Any applicant or witness who shall swear falsely as to any matter concerned in his application shall be amenable to an action for perjury, and it shall be the duty of the Grand Jury in each county to investigate each applicant and the witnesses' testimony, and report their finding to the County Board of Commissioners, who shall report to the Commissioners if findings are unfavorable to the applicant. When, in the opinion of the Commissioner, any pension or claim for pension should have special investigation, it shall be his duty to do so and file with the application the results thereof of his findings; he shall have power to summon and swear witnesses to appear and testify; for such service the Commissioner shall be paid his actual expenses, certifying the amount to the Comptroller General, who shall issue his warrant for same on the State Treasurer, who shall pay it out of any general fund appropriated under this Act.

§ 9. Commissioner to Report.—The Commissioner of Pensions shall make his annual report to the Governor, showing the name of each person enrolled under this Act, containing county and postoffice address, and amount of pension paid.

§ 10. Pensions of Inmates of Confederate Home.—Any pensioner entering the Confederate Home shall be limited to forty (\$40.00) dollars.

§ 11. Payment of Pensions Through Probate Judges.—

When the Commissioner has completed the roll and ascertained the sums to be paid to pensioners in each county, he shall certify the same to the Comptroller General, who shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the Probate Judge of the respective counties, who shall receipt for the same and disburse pensions to pensioners, taking their receipt, to be kept on file in his office; the said Judge of Probate shall receive for his services twenty-five cents for each enrollment under this Act: Provided, That the Judge of Probate shall also act as Clerk for the County Pension Board and keep all necessary records on file in his office.

§ 12. Compensation of Pension Boards.—The County Board shall be allowed two dollars a day, each, for not more than five days in each year. The State Board of Commissioners

shall be paid four dollars per day and actual mileage for not exceeding six days in any year; the State Pension Commissioner shall attach a certified statement for the amount due under this section from each member of the various boards to the Comptroller General, who shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer, for the amount due, and the State Treasurer shall pay the same.

§ 13. Secretary of Historical Commission to Furnish Information.—The Confederate rolls of South Carolina are now on file in the office of the Historical Commission, under the care of the Secretary, who is hereby required to give full information as to the services in the army and navy of and soldier or sailor, when same appears on the rolls, when such information is required of him.

§ 14. Meetings of State Board—Bond of Commissioner— Pensions for 1919.—The State Commissioner shall have power to call the State Board together when a board meeting is required. The Commissioner shall give bond with a bonding company for \$10,000.00 for the faithful performance of duty, the premium on said bond to be paid as other State officers; or he may give a personal bond, to be approved by the Governor: Provided, That the pensioners now on the roll shall be paid for the year 1919 as now provided by law. Any balance or remainder of this appropriation shall be paid according to the new enrollment and classification.

§ 15. Transfer of Records, Etc.—That the present Pension Board, upon the passage of this Act and the qualification and acceptance of appointees under this Act, turn over to the Commissioners all books, files, record equipment and funds.

§ 16. Appropriation. — The sum of five hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) dollars is hereby appropriated for the purpose of paying the pensions and all other expenses provided for in this Act: Provided, That the sum appropriated by this Act shall be in lieu of any sum or sums appropriated for pensions for Confederate veterans by the General Assembly of South Carolina in 1919.

§ 17. Act Effective on Approval — Repealing Clause.—

That this Act shall take effect on approval of the Governor, and that all laws or parts of laws now on the statute books of this State in reference to Confederate pensions are hereby repealed.

Approved the 6th day of March, A. D. 1919.