

The bill, as drafted by the committee of the Grand Army of the Republic, passed both Houses unanimously and was approved by the Governor. The bill, viz., Chapter 134, Acts of 1896, read as follows:

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE RECORDS OF THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES ACCREDITED TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, IN THE LATE CIVIL WAR, AND TO PUBLISH THE SAME, AND TO MAKE A SUITABLE APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.

- Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor shall, within thirty days after the passage of this Act, appoint three citizens, of whom the Adjutant-General of the State shall be one, and the other two of whom shall be representative soldiers who served in actual warfare as a part of the quota of the State of Maryland in the United States Army or Navy during the late Civil War, as Commissioners of the State to carry out the provisions of this Act, as hereinafter provided, and who shall serve without pay.
- Section 2. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said Commissioners under this Act to classify and compile, from the documents in the Adjutant-General's office, the records of the several commands, and the individuals thereof, of Maryland soldiers, sailors and marines serving as a part of the quota of the State of Maryland in the Army and Navy of the United States during the late Civil War, and in case of any deficiency in the record of any individual or command in the Adjutant-General's office, they shall be empowered to complete the said deficient records from the records of the War and Navy Departments of the United States, for which purpose the Governor shall, at the request of the said Commissioners, make requisition for the desired information upon the Secretaries of the said Departments, in accordance with the existing laws.
- Section 3. And be it enacted, That the said Commissioners shall be empowered to employ such clerical aid, and purchase such stationery as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, the same to be paid for from the appropriation hereinafter provided for. They shall also be empowered to deposit with the War and Navy Departments of the United States, in accordance with the existing orders of the said Departments, such a sum of money, to be taken from the appropriation hereinafter provided for, or may be required by the Secretaries of the said War and Navy Departments, to secure the United States from liability for any expense incurred in copying and completing from their records the deficient records of Maryland soldiers, sailors and marines, as provided for in Section 2 of this Act.
- Section 4. And be it enacted, That the said Commissioners, upon the completion of the said records, shall be empowered to have printed and bound in two or more volumes, one thousand copies of the same, together with brief history of each command, to be distributed as follows: 300 copies to the headquarters of the Department of Maryland, Grand Army of the Republic, for distribution to the several Grand Army Posts in the State; 2 copies to each public library and school library in the State; 1 copy to the Adjutant-General of each of the United States for each State Library; 10 copies to the Congressional Library, at Washington, D. C.; the balance of the copies to be deposited with the State Librarian, at Annapolis, for distribution as may be deemed proper by the Adjutant-General of the State.
- Section 5. And be it enacted, That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby appropriated, to pay for the provisions of this Act; and the Comptroller of the State, upon proper vouchers approved by the said Commissioners or a majority of them, shall, from time to time, draw his warrants upon the State Treasurer for the amounts necessary to pay for clerical aid, for stationery, and for deposit with the War and Navy Departments at Washington, a guarantee fund, as provided for in Section 2 of this Act, and also to pay for the printing, binding and distributing of the copies of the said records, as provided for in Section 4 of this Act.
- Section 6. And be it enacted, That the necessary expenses incurred by the said Commissioners in carrying out the provisions of this Act, not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars, shall be paid out of the said appropriated sum of fifteen thousand dollars, and the said Comptroller is authorized to draw his warrants upon the State Treasurer therefor, upon receiving an itemized account of such expenses, verified by the affidavit of the said Commissioners, or any one of them.
- Section 7. And be it enacted, That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 2, 1896.

In pursuance of the provisions of this Act, Governor Lowndes appointed a Commission, consisting of General L. Allison Wilmer, Adjutant-General of Maryland; Dr. James H. Jarrett, late surgeon 7th Regiment Infantry, Maryland Volunteers, and Colonel