

laws for a supreme legislative or governing body, composed of representatives elected either by the members or by delegates elected directly or indirectly by the members, together with such other members as may be prescribed by its constitution and laws; provided, that the elective members shall constitute a majority in number and have not less than two-thirds of the votes; and provided further, that the meetings of the supreme or governing body, and the election of officers, representatives or delegates shall be held as often as once in four years. The members, officers, representatives or delegates of a fraternal beneficiary association shall not vote by proxy.

SEC. 4A. (*Exemptions.*) Except as herein provided, such associations shall be governed by this act, and shall be exempt from all provisions of the insurance laws of this State, not only in governmental relations with the State but for every other purpose, and no law hereafter enacted shall apply to them unless they be expressly designated therein.

SEC. 5A. (*Benefits.*) Sub-section 1. Every association transacting business under this act shall provide for the payment of death benefits, and may provide for the payment of benefits in case of temporary or permanent physical disability, either as the result of disease, accident or old age; provided, the period of life at which the payment of benefits for disability on account of old age shall commence, shall not be made under seventy years; and may provide for monuments or tombstones to the memory of its deceased members, and for the payment of funeral benefits. Such association shall have the power to give a member, when permanently disabled or on attaining the age of seventy, all or such portion of the face value of his certificate as the laws of the association may provide; provided, that nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prevent the issuing of benefit certificates for a term of years less than the whole of life which are payable upon the death or disability of the member occurring within the term for which the benefit certificate may be issued. Such association shall, upon written application of the member, have the power to accept a part of the periodical contributions in cash and charge the remainder, not exceeding one-half of the periodical contribution, against the certificate with interest payable or compounded annually at a rate not lower than four per cent. per annum; provided, that this privilege shall not be granted except to associations which have readjusted or may hereafter readjust their rates of contributions, and to contracts affected by such readjustment.