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1888

# REPORT

OF THE

# ADJUTANT-GENERAL

IN REFERENCE TO

*A Resolution passed by the Senate, asking for  
statistics of Persons entitled to  
payment under*

*SENATE BILL No. 156.*

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SENATE.

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# REPORT.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY.  
OFFICE OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL, }  
TRENTON, February 28, 1888.

*Hon. George H. Large, President of the Senate of New Jersey :*

SIR—I am in receipt of a copy of the following resolution passed by the Senate of New Jersey, February 22, 1888 :

*“Resolved, That the Adjutant-General be and he is hereby requested to furnish to the Senate, so far as he may be able from information or statistics in his possession, a statement of the number of persons entitled to payment under Senate Bill No. 156, in case the same is passed, and an estimate of the amount that will be required to meet the payments directed by such act to be made, and any other facts in relation thereto that he may deem for the interest of the State to report.”*

In accordance with this resolution, I have the honor to state that by an act of the Legislature, entitled “An act for the relief of such portion of the militia of this State as may be called into service,” approved May 11, 1861, and by a supplement to said act, approved March 31, 1865, the payment of what is commonly known as “State pay” was authorized. This pay consisted of four dollars (\$4) per month for single men from the date of enlistment to August 6, 1861, when the pay of the private soldiers of the army was raised by the general government two dollars (\$2) per month, and the State pay of private soldiers was then reduced to two dollars (\$2) per month to single men from August 5, 1861, until May 1, 1864, when the pay of the enlisted men of the army was again raised three dollars (\$3) per month, after which date all State pay to single men ceased. The pay to single men was in every case paid by the Treasurer of the State on presentation of their honorable discharge.

State pay of six dollars (\$6) per month was paid to the wife, dependent children or widowed mother of enlisted men, including drafted men and substitutes, in New Jersey volunteer organizations from date of enlistment to date of discharge, death or desertion, provided they resided in this State when the soldier enlisted ; also to the wife, dependent children or widowed mother of enlisted men credited to New Jersey, who joined the United States Navy, Marine Corps or United States Colored Troops, from March 31, 1865, date of the passage of the act just referred to, to date of discharge, death or desertion, provided they resided in this State March 31, 1865 ; also to the wife, dependent children or widowed mother of enlisted men credited to New Jersey, who re-enlisted in the United States Army, Marine Corps or volunteer organizations of other States, from date of re-enlistment to date of discharge, death or desertion, provided they resided in this State at the date of said re-enlistment ; also to the dependent mother of enlisted men credited to New Jersey from March 31, 1865, to date of discharge, death or desertion, provided she resided in this State March 31, 1865. This payment to these beneficiaries was made monthly by the State Treasurer through county, township or city officials.

Immediately after the passage of the supplementary law of March 31, 1865, the opinion of the then Attorney-General of the State, Hon. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, was published, by which the law then enacted was construed not to be retroactive, but to mean that the State pay of six dollars (\$6) per month was due only from March 31, 1865, to the wife, dependent children, widowed mother or dependent mother of men who re-enlisted in the United States Army or the volunteer organizations of other States, or who enlisted in the United States Navy, Marine Corps, or United States Colored Troops, credited to New Jersey and residents of this State at the time of the passage of the act.

It will thus be seen that if it is the intention of the Legislature to do what may appear to them a just act, they should direct that this pay for the families of men in service should be paid directly to the wife, dependent children, widowed mother or dependent mother of these men ; that men who re-enlisted in the United States Army, in the volunteer organizations of other States, in the Veteran Reserve Corps, in Hancock's Veteran Corps, and were credited to New Jersey, should also be included in the bill, and that the sum of two dollars

(\$2) per month to each single man should cease on May 1, 1864. I may also add that there are on our rolls 241 men who were enlisted from New Jersey regiments in the field into the United States Army, and by this act of enlistment they were deprived of the State pay. I note these facts if it is the intention of the Legislature to assimilate this bill to the original acts.

The records of this office show that there were enlisted to the credit of New Jersey the following men in the several organizations :

United States Army.....	999
Volunteer organizations of other States.....	617
Veteran Reserve Corps.....	152
Hancock's Veteran Corps.....	1,319
United States Navy.....	6,538
United States Marine Corps.....	667
United States Colored Troops.....	2,872

State pay has already been paid, it will be understood, from the 31st of March, 1865, until date of discharge, death or desertion, to the families of men credited to New Jersey in the following organizations :

United States Navy.....	563
United States Marine Corps.....	42
United States Colored Troops.....	519

And if it is proposed to pay the families of these men from the date of their enrollment to March 31, 1865, at six dollars (\$6) per month, it will cost on account of

United States Navy.....	\$18,510
United States Marine Corps.....	2,466
United States Colored Troops.....	29,454

It is to be inferred that at this date the families of all married men who enlisted in these three organizations have been allowed the State pay from the dates mentioned, and that the number remaining, 8,953, were single men during their service.

It would be well for me to observe that we are certifying even to-day to claims for State pay under the law, and no doubt if this bill, or a bill of a similar character, were passed, it would extend over a term of twenty-five years in payment, especially if it were adjudged that the heirs-at-law of these men were entitled to collect

the same. It is impossible to say how many of these single men would apply for this pay; many of them are deceased, a large number of them were non-residents of this State at the date of their enrollment, did not return to this State after their service and will never hear of this law. It will readily be seen, however, that the dates of enlistment of these men run over the entire period of the war, and a separate calculation must be entered into in each case if an accurate statement is to be presented to you. It would take a vast amount of clerical calculation to furnish this information, and I hesitate even to make an approximate statement.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM S. STRYKER,

*Adjutant-General of New Jersey.*





