
LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**No. 713 Session of 1919.**

INTRODUCED BY MR. CURRAN, MARCH 3, 1919.

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY GENERAL,
MARCH 4, 1919.**

AN ACT

Authorizing the erection and construction by counties of memorial halls in memory of the soldiers sailors and marines of such counties providing for the purchase and condemnation of property for the erection thereon of such halls regulating the use of such halls and providing for the maintenance and care of the same by a board of control at the expense of the county

1 Section 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly*
3 *met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That*
4 *in any county of the Commonwealth where the petition of*
5 *at least fifty citizens thereof to the court of quarter*
6 *sessions for the erection or completion and maintenance of*
7 *a memorial or monument in honor of the soldiers sail-*
8 *ors and marines from such county who served in the*
9 *army and navy of the United States in the War of*

1 the Rebellion the Spanish-American War the Philippine In-
2 surrection the War with Germany and Austria and all
3 other wars in which the United States has been or may
4 hereafter be engaged has been or may be laid before
5 two successive grand juries and approved by them and
6 the said court it shall be lawful for the county com-
7 missioners of such county to erect at the county-seat a
8 memorial hall as such memorial or monument and for
9 such purpose to acquire by purchase donation or by con-
10 demnation under the right of eminent domain the neces-
11 sary site and to erect and maintain thereon a suitable
12 and proper memorial hall or buildings in memory of the
13 soldiers sailors and marines of such wars All proceedings
14 for the condemnation of any property under the provisions
15 of this act shall be in the same manner as now pro-
16 vided by law for the condemnation of property for other
17 county purposes

18 If the site so secured has a hall or building at-
19 ready erected thereon which can be altered and improved
20 so as to be made suitable for such memorial hall it
21 shall be lawful for such county commissioners to acquire
22 such site in manner aforesaid for the purpose of a
23 memorial hall

24 Section 2 For the purpose of aiding in paying the
25 purchase money and price for the site and erection and
26 construction of such memorial hall voluntary donations and
27 contributions may be accepted by the county commissioners
28 from individuals associations and organizations

1 Section 3 The county commissioners of said county may
2 and are authorized hereby to levy a special tax to an
3 amount sufficient to pay for the ground purchased or con-
4 demned and the erection thereon of said memorial hall
5 within the period of ten years from the erection thereof
6 Such tax shall be levied and collected from all taxable
7 persons and property of the county and the rate of
8 such tax shall not exceed two mills on the property
9 taxable for county purposes in any one year Such me-
10 morial hall shall be and remain the property of and
11 shall be maintained by the county The county commis-
12 sioners may borrow moneys or issue bonds for the pur-
13 chase and construction above mentioned the said loans or
14 bonds to be paid within or at the expiration of the
15 tax period above prescribed

16 Section 4 Such memorial hall shall be in honor of
17 the soldiers sailors and marines from said county who
18 served in the army or navy of the United States in
19 the War of the Rebellion the Spanish-American War the
20 Philippine Insurrection the War with Germany and Austria
21 and all other wars in which the United States has been
22 or may hereafter be engaged Such memorial halls shall
23 each contain one large assembly room or auditorium for
24 public meetings of the soldiers sailors and marines of
25 such county which may be used also for other public
26 meetings such as teachers' institutes conventions or other
27 patriotic educational agricultural or religious purposes by
28 the consent of the board of control herein provided for
29 Such memorial hall shall also contain rooms for meetings

1 of posts of the Grand Army of the Republic encamp-
2 ments of the Union Veteran Legion Commanderies of the
3 Loyal Legion camps of Sons of Veterans Women's Relief
4 Corps Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic Chap-
5 ters of the Daughters of the Revolution Organizations of
6 the Spanish-American War Philippine Insurrection the War
7 with Germany and Austria and all other wars in which
8 the United States has been or may be engaged and also
9 rooms for Agricultural bodies for the County Historical
10 Society and for such Committees of Public Defense and
11 Welfare as may be created by the State or as may
12 be approved by the board of control hereinafter provided
13 for Such memorial halls shall also provide room for the
14 display and preservation of relics and trophies of all wars
15 in which the United States has been or may be en-
16 gaged photographs paintings and portraits busts and statues
17 of the soldiers sailors and marines of the said counties
18 and mural tablets upon which shall be inscribed the
19 names of such soldiers sailors and marines Such memorial
20 halls shall also contain waiting and rest rooms with
21 lavatories attached for the use of the citizens of the
22 county

23 Section 5 The room for the County Historical Society
24 shall be made as nearly fire-proof as possible and be
25 provided with the proper files and furnishing for preser-
26 vation and storing of all historical data of the said
27 county with reference to any and all subjects

28 Section 6 The judges of the court of quarter ses-
29 sions and the county commissioners shall constitute a board

1 of control in all matters for the said building and shall
2 be assisted by an advisory board to be selected by the
3 survivors of the said wars residing in such county and
4 to be composed of not more than two members for any
5 of such wars

6 Section 7 A suitable flagstaff shall be erected upon
7 said memorial hall from which shall be displayed the
8 flag of the United States from sunrise to sunset on
9 each and every day of the year