

Chapter 28

VETERANS' SERVICES*

Sec. 28-1. Control of department.

There is hereby established a department of veterans' services which shall be under the charge of the veterans' agent. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-1)

Sec. 28-2. Veterans' agent—Powers and duties generally.

The veterans' agent shall have charge under the statutes of the commonwealth and under the board of aldermen of the disbursement of military aid, state aid, soldiers' relief and war allowances under any general or special law. He shall cause all applications for aid to be carefully investigated. He shall keep an account of all moneys received and expended on account of such aid. He shall record and file all information with respect to individual cases of aid requested, granted and denied, and the reason for granting or refusal thereof. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-2)

State law reference—Appointment, powers, duties of veterans' agents, G.L. c. 115, § 3

Sec. 28-3. Same—Duty to furnish information, advice and assistance to veterans.

The veterans' agent shall furnish such information, advice and assistance to veterans as may be necessary to enable them to procure the benefits to which they are or may be entitled relative to employment, vocational or other educational opportunities, hospitalization, medical care, pensions and other veterans' benefits. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-3)

Sec. 28-4. Same—Burial agent.

The veterans' agent shall also be the burial agent as defined in chapter 115, section 7 of the General Laws. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-4)

Sec. 28-5. Burial permits.

(a) The burial agent shall issue permits for burial in the so-called Veterans' Lot at the Newton Cemetery under the following conditions: Any person who has served or shall hereafter serve in the Armed Forces of the United States in time of war, the dates of beginning and ending of such war to be as determined by the commonwealth for purposes of settlement and veterans' benefits, and shall die in service or be released therefrom under honorable conditions, and at the time of his decease shall have domiciled for three (3) consecutive years preceding death or shall have a settlement in the city or shall have entered such service to the credit of the city as determined by the adjutant general's office of the commonwealth, shall be entitled to burial in the lot in the Newton Cemetery owned by the city, known as the Veterans' Lot.

(b) The burial agent shall make and keep a record of all interments in such lot and shall issue the permits as required for opening graves.

(c) Any question of right of burial arising under this section shall be determined by the mayor. (Rev. Ords. 1973, §

***Cross references**—Health and human services, Ch. 12; exemption from parking meter regulations for disabled veterans, § 19-197; planning and development, Ch. 22

State law references—Veterans' benefits generally, G.L. c. 115; local departments of veterans' services, G.L. c. 115, § 10 et seq.

22-5)

Sec. 28-6. Payment of money by warrant of comptroller of accounts.

The comptroller of accounts, upon request of the veterans' agent, may issue his warrant for the payment by the city collector-treasurer to the veterans' agent of such sums as may be required for purposes of emergency relief of veterans and allowances under any general or special law. The veterans' agent shall keep accurate accounts of all payments made by him from money so received, and upon the first day of each month or upon request shall render to the comptroller of accounts a transcript thereof with proper vouchers attached. Not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) shall be advanced at any time to the veterans' agent, and no additional advance shall be made unless all money previously advanced shall have been properly accounted for. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-6; Ord. No. 1, 6-3-74)

Cross reference—Comptroller of accounts generally, Ch. 2, Art. III, Div. 3

Sec. 28-7. Establishment of information center; purpose.

The veterans' agent shall establish an information center in which the dwelling units in the city available for veterans will be listed and veterans will be advised and assisted in establishing contact with the persons in charge of the selling or rental of such dwelling units and in determining whether a dwelling unit offered to a veteran is suitable for him at the price or rental charged. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-7)

Sec. 28-8. Physician-Qualifications; duties generally.

(a) There shall be a physician of the department of veterans' services who, under the direction of the veterans' agent, shall have charge of the furnishing of medical attendance and care to those veterans and their dependents who are entitled to relief under any general or special law. Such physician shall be a resident of the city, a graduate of a legally incorporated medical school, shall be a registered physician, and shall have practiced as such physician for at least five (5) years continuously prior to his appointment.

(b) It shall be the duty of the physician of the department of veterans' services, under the direction of the veterans' agent, to attend and to dispense medicine for the use of all sick veterans and their dependents entitled to receive such relief, who live within the city or within a distance conveniently reachable therefrom; to authorize medical attendance to, including the dispensing of medicine for the use of, all such veterans or their dependents who live at a substantial distance from the city; and to authorize the services of medical consultants, surgeons and hospitalization where such services and care are in his opinion necessary. The physician of the department of veterans' services shall in no case, directly or indirectly, solicit, direct or in any way interfere with the selection of a physician, surgeon or hospital of such veteran or dependent. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-8)

Sec. 28-9. Same—Approval of medical charges.

The city shall not be responsible for the payment of any charge for medicine, medical attendance, medical consultation, hospitalization, surgery or any charge for medical service of any kind or nature furnished to any veteran or his dependents unless authorization shall have been given and the charge approved by the physician of the department of veterans' services. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-9)

Sec. 28-10. Same—Advice to veterans' agent, board of aldermen.

The physician of the department of veterans' services shall give to the veterans' agent and to the board of aldermen such professional advice and counsel now or hereafter incumbent upon him by the laws of the commonwealth, these Revised Ordinances and any other ordinances of the city. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 22-10)