

ALLEGHENY COUNTY MEMORIAL HALL - RELATING TO
Act of Apr. 12, 1905, P.L. 140, No. 106
AN ACT

Cl. 16

Providing for the erection and maintenance of a memorial hall at the county-seat of Allegheny county, in honor of the soldiers, sailors, and marines from that county, who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the war for the suppression of the rebellion; authorizing and directing the commissioners of said Allegheny county to erect and maintain said memorial hall, upon petition of fifty citizens, approved by two successive grand juries, the court of quarter sessions, and a majority vote of the qualified voters of said county, at a general election; designating a committee to determine what relics, records, etc., shall be placed in said memorial hall, and providing for a flagstaff and display of the flag of the United States.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That upon presentation of a petition, signed by fifty citizens of Allegheny county, to the court of quarter sessions of said county, praying for the erection and maintenance of a memorial hall at the county seat of said county, at the cost of the county of Allegheny, in honor of the soldiers, sailors and marines from Allegheny county who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the war for the suppression of the rebellion, said court shall refer said petition to the grand jury; and if said petition shall be approved by two successive grand juries of said county and said court, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners of said county to certify the same to the sheriff, who shall give public notice by proclamation, once a day for ten successive days, by advertisement in three newspapers published in said county, that at the next general election the erection of a memorial hall, in honor of the soldiers, sailors, and marines from said county, who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the war for the suppression of the rebellion, will be submitted to the qualified voters of Allegheny county for their approval or disapproval, under the provisions of the laws of this State relating to general elections.

Section 2. The commissioners shall prepare the ballots in the manner and form provided by law, and cause the same to be properly distributed to the election officers at each poll or voting place, who shall receive these ballots when voted by the qualified voters in each election district, and deposit them in the box or receptacle provided by the county commissioners for that purpose, and, after said polls close, count the same, and make return of said votes, together with the other returns of said election, to the prothonotary of Allegheny county.

Section 3. If after the approval of said petition by the said grand juries and the said court, there shall not be sufficient time to proclaim or advertise said election for ten days before the next general election, then said proclamation and advertisement may be for the next succeeding general

election.

Section 4. If a majority of said votes, upon being counted by the court of common pleas or returning-board that counts the votes polled at general elections, shall be found to be for the said memorial hall, the court or returning-board making said count shall so certify to the commissioners of Allegheny county; whereupon the said commissioners shall proceed to erect said memorial hall at the county seat of Allegheny county, and are authorized to cause plans and specifications to be prepared by architects and to select the best that, in their judgment, is submitted; and they are hereby further authorized to purchase, or acquire by condemnation under the right of eminent domain, a suitable site, or piece or parcel of ground, upon which to erect said memorial hall. The cost of said plans, site, or parcel of ground, advertising, election ballots, the erection, furnishing and maintenance of said memorial hall, and all other cost and expense connected therewith, shall be paid by the county treasurer, out of the funds belonging to Allegheny county, on warrants drawn by the county commissioners upon the county treasurer: Provided, That the cost of said memorial hall, including the cost of the site, or land, upon which it is erected, shall not exceed the sum of twelve hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Section 5. The county commissioners of said county may, and are hereby authorized to, levy and collect a sufficient tax on the taxable persons and property of the county to defray the cost and expense of the construction of said memorial hall and maintenance of the same.

Section 6. Said memorial hall shall be in honor of the soldiers, sailors and marines from Allegheny County, who served in the army and navy of the United States in the war for the suppression of the rebellion. It shall contain one large assembly hall, or auditorium, for public meetings of the soldiers, sailors, and marines of Allegheny County, but which may be used for other public meetings. It shall also contain rooms for meetings of the posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, encampments of the Union Veteran Legion, commanderies of the Loyal Legion, and kindred patriotic organizations. It shall also contain rooms and places for the proper display and preservation of relics and trophies of the war for the suppression of the rebellion; flags, histories, rosters, and records of the Grand Army posts, encampments of the Union Veteran Legion, commanderies of the Loyal Legion; regimental and company histories, photographs, paintings and portraits, busts and statues, of soldiers, sailors, and marines of Allegheny County; and mural tablets, upon which shall be inscribed the names of the soldiers, sailors, and marines of Allegheny County who served in the war for the suppression of the rebellion. A committee of ten, with power to fill vacancies, shall be selected by the survivors of the war for the suppression of the rebellion, residing in Allegheny County. The president judge of the court of common pleas, the judge next oldest in commission in said court, and the three county commissioners of said county, shall, ex officio, be members of the committee who, together, shall constitute a board of managers. The board of

managers thus constituted shall annually select from their number a president, a secretary, and such other officers as may be necessary--but no member shall receive any compensation, except the secretary--but shall be allowed the necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duty. The board shall select the superintendent, and the necessary employes, the number and salaries to be fixed by the salary board of the county. The board of managers shall have full power to maintain, operate, and rent Memorial Hall and the grounds, for purposes not inconsistent with the memorial character of the building, and shall determine what supplies, materials, decorations, or improvements are required in the building and grounds, and the design and character thereof; and, when so determined by the board, the president and secretary shall certify the same to the county commissioners, together with designs, plans, and estimates of the cost of any proposed improvement or decoration. The county commissioners shall, thereupon, make all contracts for supplies, materials, decorations, or improvements, in the manner now provided by law. The board shall make a detailed report at the close of each fiscal year, to the commissioners and controller, in the form prescribed by them; and, at least thirty days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year , submit to the county commissioners a detailed estimate of the amount of money which will be required by them for the coming year; and, should the board of managers and the county commissioners differ in their judgment as to the amount of money required, the estimates shall be submitted by the board of managers to the court of common pleas of the county, which court, after investigation, shall certify the amount to be allowed; and its decision shall be final, and no expense shall be incurred in excess of these amounts without the consent of the county commissioners: Provided, however, That any improvement or decoration requiring an expenditure of over five thousand dollars (\$5,000) must receive the approval of the grand jury and the court of quarter sessions of the county before such improvement shall be made. The president and secretary, upon direction of the board, shall issue certificates for all moneys to be paid, which certificates shall be changeable at the office of the county commissioners for such forms of warrant as may be in use for the distribution of county funds for general county purposes; and all moneys so expended shall be paid and accounted for in the same manner as moneys expended for general county purposes, and any moneys realized by the board shall be paid into the county treasury and become a part of the general county fund.

(6 amended May 23, 1913, P.L.301, No.208)

Section 7. A suitable flagstaff shall be erected upon said property, from which shall be displayed the flag of the United States, from sunrise to sunset on each and every day in the year.