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AMENDING SECTION 4, PUBLIC LAW NO. 198, SEVENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS, JULY 19, 1939, TO AUTHORIZE HOSPITALIZATION OF RETIRED OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN WHO ARE WAR VETERANS ON PARITY WITH OTHER WAR VETERANS

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DECEMBER 12, 1941.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. CLARK of Missouri, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4853]

The Committee on Finance having considered the bill (H. R. 4853) proposing to amend section 4, Public Law No. 198, Seventy-sixth Congress, July 19, 1939, to authorize hospitalization of retired officers and enlisted men who are war veterans on a parity with other war veterans, report back to the Senate and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purposes and effects of the bill are set forth in House Report No. 1156 which reads as follows:

[H. Rept. No. 1156, 77th Cong., 1st sess.]

The Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4853) proposing to amend section 4, Public Law No. 198, Seventy-sixth Congress, July 19, 1939, to authorize hospitalization of retired officers and enlisted men who are war veterans, in Veterans' Administration facilities under contract on parity with other war veterans, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass with the following amendment:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to amend section 4, Public Law Numbered 198, Seventy-sixth Congress, July 19, 1939, to authorize hospitalization of retired officers and enlisted men who are war veterans, on a parity with other war veterans."

### ENDORSEMENT OF BILL

This bill has the endorsement of the Veterans' Administration and the Bureau of the Budget.

### COST OF BILL

The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs reports that the total additional cost entailed by enactment of this bill would be relatively small.

## PURPOSE OF BILL

Under existing veterans' regulations hospital treatment of retired personnel who are war veterans is limited to facilities under the direct and exclusive jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration. Such personnel already have entitlement to treatment in the hospitals of their respective service, namely the Army or Navy, but by placing them in the same category as other war veterans, the Veterans' Administration would assume the cost of their hospitalization in such service hospitals, thus relieving the patients of the daily subsistence rate which is charged them by the Army and Navy.

This bill will also afford hospitalization to retired personnel who are war veterans in such private, municipal, or State institutions as are under contract with the Veterans' Administration to the same extent as such facilities are available to other veterans. The principal effect of this legislation would be to afford hospitalization in territorial and insular possessions of the United States, particularly Alaska, Canal Zone, Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii, since private, municipal, or State contract facilities within the continental United States, except in the case of female patients are used only for the emergency treatment of service-connected cases.

The report of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs on this bill is self-explanatory and is as follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,  
Washington, June 23, 1941.

HON. JOHN E. RANKIN,  
Chairman, Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. RANKIN: This is in response to your verbal request for a report of H. R. 4853, Seventy-seventh Congress, a bill to amend section 4, Public Law No. 198, Seventy-sixth Congress, July 19, 1939, to authorize hospitalization of retired officers and enlisted men who are war veterans, in Veterans' Administration facilities under contract on parity with other war veterans.

This bill, if enacted into law, would amend section 4 of the act of July 19, 1939 (Public, No. 198, 76th Cong.), to read as follows (the language to be deleted being in black brackets, and the proposed new language being italicized):

"SEC. 4. In the administration of laws pertaining to veterans, retired officers, and enlisted men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, who served honorably during a war period as recognized by the Veterans' Administration, shall be, and are entitled to hospitalization and domiciliary care in [Veterans' Administration facilities on parity with other war] *the same manner and to the same extent as veterans of any war are now or may hereafter be furnished hospitalization or domiciliary care by the Veterans' Administration* and subject to those provisions of paragraph VI (A) of Veterans Regulation Numbered 6 (c), which provide for reduction of monetary benefits to veterans having neither wife, child, nor dependent parent while being furnished hospital treatment, institutional, or domiciliary care."

Under existing Veterans' Administration regulations (Regulations and Procedure, R-6047 (E), second paragraph), hospital treatment of retired personnel who are war veterans is limited to facilities under the direct and exclusive jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration. Such personnel already have entitlement to treatment in the hospitals of their respective services, i. e., the Army or the Navy; but by placing them in the same category as other war veterans, the Veterans' Administration would assume the cost of their hospitalization in such service hospitals, thus relieving the patients of the daily subsistence rate which is charged them by the Army or Navy. Enactment of the bill would also afford hospitalization to retired personnel who are war veterans in such private, municipal, or State institutions as are under contract with the Veterans' Administration to the same extent as such facilities are available to other war veterans. The principal effect of such legislation would be to afford hospitalization in Territorial and insular possessions of the United States, particularly Alaska, Canal Zone, Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii, since private, municipal, or State contract facilities within the continental United States, except in the case of female patients, are used only for the emergency treatment of service-connected cases.

Since information is not available in the Veterans' Administration as to the number of retired officers and men who are war veterans and who are undergoing hospitalization in Army and Navy hospitals, it is not possible to furnish an estimate as to the cost to the Veterans' Administration if it were required to reimburse the War and Navy Departments for the hospitalization of these retired

officers and men. Nor are figures available upon which to base an estimate of the number of retired personnel who would be eligible for and would require hospitalization beyond the territorial limits of the United States in hospitals not operated by the Veterans' Administration, and the approximate cost of furnishing such care. However, it is believed that the total additional cost entailed by the enactment of the bill would be relatively small.

While the present policy appears to be operating fairly satisfactorily, the Veterans' Administration would interpose no objection to enactment of the bill. However, it is suggested that the title be amended to delete the phrase "in Veterans' Administration facilities under contract" and insert the word "a" before the word "parity," so that the title will read:

"A bill to amend section 4, Public Law Numbered 198, Seventy-sixth Congress, July 19, 1939, to authorize hospitalization of retired officers and enlisted men who are war veterans, on a parity with other war veterans."

Advice has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

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CHANGE IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 2 (a) of rule XIII of the rules of the House of Representatives, changes made in existing law by the bill are shown as follows (the existing law, which is section 4 of the act of July 19, 1939 (Public, 198, 76th Cong.), is shown in roman type, new matter proposed by this bill is shown in italics, and deleted matter is shown in black brackets):

[PUBLIC—No. 198—76TH CONG.]

"SEC. 4. In the administration of laws pertaining to veterans, retired officers, and enlisted men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, who served honorably during a war period as recognized by the Veterans' Administration, shall be, and are entitled to hospitalization and domiciliary care in **[Veterans' Administration facilities on parity with other war]** *the same manner and to the same extent as veterans of any war are now or may hereafter be furnished hospitalization or domiciliary care by the Veterans' Administration* and subject to those provisions of paragraph VI (A) of Veterans Regulation Numbered 6 (c), which provide for reduction of monetary benefits to veterans having neither wife, child, nor dependent parent while being furnished hospital treatment, institutional, or domiciliary care."

Section 4, as amended by this bill, will read as follows:

"SEC. 4. In the administration of laws pertaining to veterans, retired officers, and enlisted men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, who served honorably during a war period as recognized by the Veterans' Administration, shall be, and are entitled to hospitalization and domiciliary care in the same manner and to the same extent as veterans of any war are now or may hereafter be furnished hospitalization or domiciliary care by the Veterans' Administration and subject to those provisions of paragraph VI (A) of Veterans Regulation Numbered 6 (c), which provide for reduction of monetary benefits to veterans having neither wife, child, nor dependent parent while being furnished hospital treatment, institutional, or domiciliary care."

