

Calendar No. 1451

79TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 1424

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO GRANT AN EASEMENT FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, IN CERTAIN LANDS IN THE RESERVATION OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, LEBANON COUNTY, PA.

JUNE 5 (legislative day, MARCH 5), 1946.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JOHNSON of Colorado, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 5907]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5907) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement for highway purposes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in certain lands in the reservation of the Veterans' Administration hospital, Lebanon County, Pa., and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The House report on this bill is self-explanatory and is as follows:

The Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5907), to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement for highway purposes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in certain lands in the reservation of the Veterans' Administration hospital, Lebanon County, Pa., and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The bill is approved by the Bureau of the Budget. It was introduced at the request of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, for the purpose of providing land to relocate the Lebanon-Buffalo Springs Road so as to skirt around buildings which might be erected for hospital purposes by the Veterans' Administration.

The proposed measure will not impose any cost upon the Government as the entire cost of relocating the highway is to be borne by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the easement presently outstanding is to be extinguished. Relocation of the present road, which runs between hospital buildings, is urgently needed to protect patients and employees.

2 VETERANS' ADMINISTRATOR TO GRANT EASEMENT FOR HIGHWAY

The letter from the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to the Speaker of the House of Representatives is as follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington 25, D. C., March 22, 1946.

HON. SAM RAYBURN,
The Speaker's Rooms, House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There is transmitted herewith draft of a bill to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement for highway purposes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in certain lands in the reservation of the Veterans' Administration hospital, Lebanon County, Pa., and for other purposes, with the request that it be referred to the appropriate committee of the House of Representatives in order that it may be introduced and enacted into law. There is also enclosed a road plan showing the location of the land described in the proposed legislation.

At the time the Veterans' Administration acquired property in Lebanon County Pa., for the purposes of erecting a hospital thereon the land was traversed by a State road denominated as the "Lebanon-Buffalo Springs Road." It was appreciated that plans of the Veterans' Administration would very likely require erection of buildings on both sides of this road and that this would be disadvantageous. An understanding was entered into with the authorities in Pennsylvania that the Department of Highways of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would relocate this Lebanon-Buffalo Springs Road so as to skirt around buildings which might be erected by the Veterans' Administration. Legislation is required to empower the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the new right-of-way and the enclosed draft has been prepared to accomplish this purpose.

The entire cost of relocating the highway is to be borne by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the easement presently outstanding is to be extinguished. The relocation of the road is to the interest of the Government and the Veterans' Administration and will improve the property. The relocation of the road is almost a necessity inasmuch as it is contemplated that the hospital will be devoted to the care of neuropsychiatric patients and a road through the buildings would be a menace to the welfare of the patients.

The Veterans' Administration has issued to the Department of Highways, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a revocable license to the new location pending congressional authorization for the granting of an easement. However, the department of highways will not undertake construction and the expenditure of public moneys until congressional authorization is accomplished. For that reason it will be appreciated if this matter may be expedited.

Advice has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that office to the submission of the proposed legislation to the Congress.

Very truly yours,

OMAR N. BRADLEY,
General, United States Army, Administrator.

