

FACILITATING THE DECENTRALIZATION OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

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 S. 2018]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2018) to facilitate the decentralization of the Veterans' Administration, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The report from the Veterans' Administration on this bill is self-explanatory and is as follows:

MARCH 22, 1946.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
The Capitol, Washington, D. C.

SIR: There is enclosed a draft of a proposed bill entitled "A bill to facilitate the decentralization of the Veterans' Administration," with the request that the same be introduced and considered for enactment.

As a result of rapid demobilization of the armed forces, the task of the Veterans' Administration expanded greatly in dimension and changed materially in character. With almost complete demobilization scheduled for early in the fiscal year 1947, the number of living veterans of all wars will reach nearly 20,000,000. In addition to former benefit programs—medical, insurance, pension and compensation, rehabilitation—the Veterans' Administration now must provide programs for education and training, readjustment allowance, and loans. It is the constant aim of the Veterans' Administration to adapt itself quickly and effectively to the requirements of these millions of veterans. To that end the Veterans' Administration has commenced on extensive program of decentralization. To facilitate administration, 13 field branch offices are being established and certain existing field installations will be decentralized.

The purpose of the proposed measure is to compensate, in part, certain of the officers and employees who are transferred for the convenience of the Government in connection with the decentralization of the Veterans' Administration.

If the 13 field branch offices and certain field installations of the Veterans' Administration are to operate successfully, it is necessary that an adequate number of trained and experienced personnel be available at the new branch offices and at the new locations of certain existing offices and installations.

Under the provisions of the proposed bill, until June 30, 1947, appropriations of the Veterans' Administration now or hereafter available for traveling expenses will be available for the payment to certain employees transferred from one

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official station to another of special allowances, in addition to those provided by law for transfer from one official station to another for permanent duty, of \$5 per day after arrival at destination for 6 days for employees, plus \$2.50 per day additional for 6 days for each member of immediate families of employees, where the transfer of the employee is ordered in connection with the decentralization of certain functions of the Veterans' Administration from the central office in the District of Columbia or from the branch of central office in New York, N. Y., to any of the 13 field branch offices; or where the transfer is the result of a separation of regional office and hospital or domiciliary facilities and the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs finds that such new post of duty is beyond reasonable commuting distance from the previous post of duty.

It is estimated that the total cost which would result from the enactment of the proposed bill is \$437,130.

In view of the administrative difficulties confronting the Veterans' Administration at the present time, it is respectfully requested that this matter be expedited.

Information has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that this proposed legislation will not be in conflict with the program of the President.

Very truly yours,

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

