

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO RECONVEY TO THE HELENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PARCELS OF LAND SITUATED IN THE CITY OF HELENA, MONT.

JANUARY 31, 1949.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GEORGE, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 460]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 460) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to reconvey to the Helena Chamber of Commerce certain described parcels of land situated in the city of Helena, Mont., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

This bill was recommended by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and approved by the Bureau of the Budget.

### GENERAL STATEMENT

This bill would authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey to the Helena Chamber of Commerce certain land situated in the city of Helena, Mont.

The estimated value of the land is between \$10,000 and \$15,000 and was donated to the Veterans' Administration in 1947 by the Helena Chamber of Commerce on condition that the land would be used by the Veterans' Administration as a site for a regional office building. It has been determined that the need for establishing this regional office could be eliminated, and the Veterans' Administration has no present or future need for the land donated for this purpose. The chamber of commerce has been advised of this action and has requested the return of the land. The Veterans' Administration is desirous of complying with the request, but such action is not permitted under existing law. No public funds have been expended for improvements since the land has been acquired.

The enactment of the bill would not involve expenditures of public funds.

**2 RECONVEY CERTAIN LAND SITUATED IN CITY OF HELENA, MONT.**

The letter from the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs requesting this legislation is as follows:

DECEMBER 2, 1948.

HON. ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG,  
*President pro tempore of the Senate,*  
*Washington 25, D. C.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Transmitted herewith is a draft of bill entitled, "A bill to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to reconvey to the Helena Chamber of Commerce certain described parcels of land situated in the city of Helena, Mont.", with a request that it be introduced and considered for enactment.

The purpose of the proposed bill is to provide authorization for the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to reconvey to the Helena Chamber of Commerce, a corporation, two parcels of land situated in Helena, Mont.

In 1947 the Helena Chamber of Commerce acquired and donated to the United States the land described in the drafted bill. Such donation was tendered and accepted upon the assumption that the land would be used by the Veterans' Administration as the site of a regional office building to be erected in the city of Helena. Representations to that effect were made to the chamber of commerce by representatives of the Veterans' Administration. Thereafter it was determined that the need for establishing a regional office at Helena, Mont., could be eliminated by the consolidation of certain Veterans' Administration activities at Fort Harrison, Mont., and that the Veterans' Administration has no present or future need of the land donated by the Helena Chamber of Commerce. The chamber of commerce has been advised of such determination, and has requested the return of the land. Although the Veterans' Administration is desirous of complying with the request, such action is not permitted under existing law. No public funds have been expended for improvements since the land was acquired.

The enactment of the proposed bill would not involve the expenditure of public funds.

The Veterans' Administration recommends favorable consideration of the proposed legislation.

The Bureau of the Budget advised that there would be no objection to the presentation of this proposal to the Congress for its consideration.

Sincerely yours,

O. W. CLARK,  
*Executive Assistant Administrator*  
(For and in the absence of the Administrator).

The committee is in accord with the purposes of the bill and recommends its enactment.

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