

PROHIBITING REDUCTION OF ANY RATING OF TOTAL DISABILITY
OR PERMANENT TOTAL DISABILITY FOR COMPENSATION,
PENSION, OR INSURANCE PURPOSES WHICH HAS BEEN IN EF-
FECT FOR 20 OR MORE YEARS

FEBRUARY 24 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 8), 1954.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2984]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2984) to prohibit reduction of any rating of total disability or permanent total disability for compensation or pension purposes which has been in effect for 20 or more years, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments, and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Amend the title of the bill to read:

A bill to prohibit reduction of any rating of total disability or permanent total disability for compensation, pension, or insurance purposes which has been in effect for twenty or more years.

On page 1, line 4, strike out the words "compensation or pension" and insert the words "compensation, pension, or insurance".

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

This bill provides that a rating of total disability or permanent total disability which has been made for compensation, pension, or insurance purposes under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration and which has been continuously in force for 20 or more years shall not be reduced thereafter.

The effect of the bill would be to prevent future physical examinations in the case of veterans who have had such a disability rating for 20 or more years. Under existing laws, veterans who have a total or permanent total disability rating based on conditions other than disabilities resulting from blindness or anatomical losses are apprehensive that an examination ordered at some future date may

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not adequately represent their true condition of health and that, as a result of such examination, a reduction in rating may cause them to lose the benefits provided for such total or permanent total disability. In the course of 20 or more years, veterans become accustomed to rely upon such benefits for the support of themselves and their dependents and are in constant uncertainty as to their future security. The enactment of the bill will eliminate such fear of loss and give veterans having total or permanent total disabilities which have persisted for 20 or more years assurance that they will not be deprived of benefits in their old age when continuance of support is most needed.

It is the opinion of the Committee on Finance that the same extenuating circumstances which warrant favorable consideration in respect to compensation and pensions apply equally to total disability insurance payments. The bill has been so amended.

The Veterans' Administration estimates the cost of the bill to be nominal.