
CONTINUATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR U.S. CITIZENS RETURNED FROM ABROAD

JUNE 29 (legislative day, JUNE 28), 1971.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. LONG of Louisiana, from the Committee on Finance,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 8313]

The Committee on Finance, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 8313) to amend the Social Security Act in order to continue for 2 years the temporary assistance program for U.S. citizens returned from abroad, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 8313 is to extend for 2 years, from June 30, 1971, to June 30, 1973, the provisions of section 1113 of the Social Security Act, which authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to provide temporary assistance to U.S. citizens returned from foreign countries under certain circumstances.

GENERAL STATEMENT

It is estimate that more than a million U.S. citizens and their dependents live, work, study, and travel abroad. These people are subject to the same hazards as Americans living at home, including illness, loss of employment, desertion, and family breakup. In the event that these U.S. citizens become public charges in foreign countries, they are subject to deportation.

Section 1113 of the Social Security Act authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to provide temporary assistance to citizens of the United States who are without resources and who are identified by the Department of State as having returned or having

been brought from foreign countries to the United States because they are destitute, or ill, or because of war, invasion, or a similar crisis.

Temporary assistance, financed from Federal funds, to the extent needed, includes financial assistance, reception, care, and transportation from the port of entry to the individual's final destination. The program also provides for help in planning for resettlement, obtaining and using existing resources, and locating friends and relatives.

While this program has helped only a relatively few people, the help has been vital to the individuals who have been involved. The Department of State is responsible for bringing the individuals to the shores of the United States, but it has no authority to provide help after arrival in the United States. Under section 1113, temporary assistance is provided only after an individual returns to the United States and has been referred to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare by the Department of State, which certifies that the repatriate is a citizen and the reason for his return.

Provisions are also included in the program for reception, care, and temporary assistance for U.S. citizens evacuated to the United States in the event of an international crisis. The range of available assistance and services, the requirement for certification by the Department of State, and the operating methods are essentially the same as those listed above. Most evacuees, however, need only reception services at the port of entry, temporary care, and help in locating friends or relatives. Since 1961, the program has assisted U.S. citizens repatriated from two countries because of international crises—Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

The Social and Rehabilitation Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is responsible for the administration of this program and arranges for the facilities of State and local welfare agencies to be utilized in carrying out the program. These agencies are reimbursed for their costs.

Section 1113 was enacted as part of the Social Security Amendments of 1961, and originally provided for an expiration date of June 30, 1962. This date has been extended by Congress several times and was last extended by Public Law 91-41 to June 30, 1971.

EFFECT ON THE REVENUES OF THE BILL AND VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE IN REPORTING THE BILL.

In compliance with section 252(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 the following statement is made relative to the effect on the revenues of this bill.

The number of cases referred by the State Department has varied from year to year, but within a rather limited range. In fiscal year 1968, there were 342 referrals; in fiscal year 1969, 440 referrals; and during fiscal year 1970, 376 referrals. Appropriations have varied from \$104,048 in fiscal year 1966 to \$250,226 in fiscal year 1969. According to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the estimated cost for fiscal year 1971 is \$206,000; the estimated cost for fiscal year 1972 is \$225,000. The committee feels that this estimate is reasonable.

In compliance with section 133 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, the following statement is made relative to

the vote by the committee on reporting the bill. The bill was ordered favorably reported by the committee without objection.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 4 of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italics; existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman) :

SECTION 1113 OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Assistance for U.S. Citizens Returned From Foreign Countries

SEC. 1113. (a) (1) The Secretary is authorized to provide temporary assistance to citizens of the United States and to dependents of citizens of the United States, if they (A) are identified by the Department of State as having returned, or been brought, from a foreign country to the United States because of the destitution of any citizen of the United States or the illness of such citizen or any of his dependents or because of war, threat of war, invasion, or similar crisis, and (B) are without available resources.

(2) Except in such cases or classes of cases as are set forth in regulations of the Secretary, provision shall be made for reimbursement to the United States by the recipients of the temporary assistance to cover the cost thereof.

(3) The Secretary may provide assistance under paragraph (1) directly or through utilization of the services and facilities of appropriate public or private agencies and organizations, in accordance with agreements providing for payment, in advance or by way of reimbursement, as may be determined by the Secretary, of the cost thereof. Such cost shall be determined by such statistical, sampling or other method as may be provided in the agreement.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to develop plans and make arrangements for provision of temporary assistance within the United States to individuals specified in subsection (a) (1). Such plans shall be developed and such arrangements shall be made after consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Defense. To the extent feasible, assistance provided under subsection (a) shall be provided in accordance with the plans developed pursuant to this subsection, as modified from time to time by the Secretary.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "temporary assistance" means money payments, medical care, temporary billeting, transportation, and other goods and services necessary for the health or welfare of individuals (including guidance, counseling, and other welfare services) furnished to them within the United States upon their arrival in the United States and for such period after their arrival as may be provided in regulations of the Secretary.

(d) No temporary assistance may be provided under this section after June 30, [1971] 1973.

