

ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS TO U.S. CITIZENS ASSIGNED TO VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION OFFICE IN THE RE- PUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

JULY 8, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BYRD of Virginia, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 269]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 269) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain allowances and benefits to personnel of the Veterans' Administration who are U.S. citizens and are assigned to the Veterans' Administration office in the Republic of the Philippines, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The purpose of this legislation is to provide, for the personnel of the Veterans' Administration who are U.S. citizens and assigned to the Veterans' Administration regional office at Manila in the Republic of the Philippines, certain allowances and benefits similar to those provided under appropriate sections of the Foreign Service Act of 1946. Generally, such allowances and benefits deal with temporary quarters, expenses for proper representation and official residences, travel, transportation, "home" leave, et cetera. Generally, these benefits are not now available to this class of employee of the Veterans' Administration.

The cost of this legislation would approximate \$30,000 annually.

The favorable report of the Veterans' Administration follows:

JUNE 26, 1959.

HON. HARRY F. BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BYRD: The following comments on H.R. 269, 86th Congress, are submitted in response to your request.

The bill proposes to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide, for personnel of the Veterans' Administration who are U.S. citizens and are assigned to the Veterans' Administration Manila regional office in the Republic of the Philippines, certain allowances and benefits similar to those provided under specified sections of the Foreign Service Act of 1946 and home leave benefits similar to those provided under section 203(f) of the Annual and Sick Leave Act of 1951 for employees of the Foreign Service, Department of State. Such allowances and benefits deal with temporary quarters and storage of effects, expenses for proper representation and of official residences, travel, transportation, "home" leave, and medical expenses, and are not now generally available to Veterans' Administration personnel employed in the Philippines.

The subject of pay, allowances, and benefits for Federal employees overseas has been under study for several years by the executive branch of the Government. H.R. 5007 and H.R. 5178, 86th Congress, which are pending before the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, would provide certain allowances, expenses, and other fringe employment benefits for employees of all Government agencies stationed overseas. During the 85th Congress substantially similar bills (H.R. 3527 and H.R. 6141) were endorsed by the administration on the basis that all U.S. citizens employed in foreign countries, regardless of agency or location, should be provided benefits on an equal basis.

On the basis of such data as are available at this time, it is estimated that the cost of H.R. 269, if enacted, would be in the neighborhood of \$30,000 annually.

The programs administered by the Veteran's Administration in the Philippines are of major significance with respect to our relations with that country and involve substantial expenditures by the U.S. Government. It is therefore necessary that highly competent key personnel be employed to assure successful administration of such programs. Enactment of H.R. 269 or the bills of general applicability (H.R. 5007 and H.R. 5178) would be beneficial in the recruitment and retention of personnel for our Manila regional office.

The Veterans' Administration has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there was no objection to the submission of a similar report on this bill to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives.

Sincerely yours,

SUMNER G. WINTTIER, *Administrator.*

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 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):

SURCHAPTER III, TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

**Subchapter III of Chapter I (General)—Veterans' Administration
Regional Offices; Employees**

§ 230. Central and regional offices

(a) The Central Office of the Veterans' Administration shall be in the District of Columbia. The Administrator may establish such regional offices and such other field offices within the United States, its Territories, Commonwealths, and possessions, as he deems necessary.

(b) The Administrator may exercise authority under this section in territory of the Republic of the Philippines until June 30, 1960.

§ 231. Placement of employees in military installations

The Administrator may place officers and employees of the Veterans' Administration in such Army, Navy, and Air Force installations as may be deemed advisable for the purpose of adjudicating disability claims of, and giving aid and advice to, members of the Armed Forces who are about to be discharged or released from active military, naval, or air service.

§ 232. Employment as translators

The Administrator may contract for the services of translators without regard to sections 39, 46, and 50 of title 5, and the Classification Act of 1949.

§ 233. Employees' apparel; school transportation; recreational equipment; visual exhibits

The Administrator, subject to such limitations as he may prescribe, may—

(1) furnish and launder such wearing apparel as may be prescribed for employees in the performance of their official duties;

(2) transport children of Veterans' Administration employees located at isolated stations to and from school in available Government-owned automotive equipment;

(3) provide recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment for the use of patients in hospitals, and employees in isolated installations; and

(4) provide for the preparation, shipment, installation, and display of exhibits, photographic displays, moving pictures and other visual educational information and descriptive material.

For the purposes of subparagraph (4), the Administrator may purchase or rent equipment.

§ 234. Telephone service for medical officers

The Administrator may pay for official telephone service and rental in the field whenever incurred in case of official telephones for medical officers of the Veterans' Administration where such telephones are installed in private residences or private apartments or quarters, when authorized under regulations established by the Administrator.

§ 235. Benefits to employees in the Republic of the Philippines who are United States citizens

(a) *The Administrator may, under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the President or his designee, provide to personnel of the Veterans' Administration who are United States citizens and are assigned by the Administrator to the Veterans' Administration office in the Republic of the Philippines, allowances and benefits similar to those provided by the following sections of the Foreign Service Act of 1946:*

(1) *Section 901(1) (relating to allowances for temporary and permanent living quarters, heat, light, water, fuel, gas, and electricity).*

(2) *Section 901(3) (relating to allowances to provide for the proper representation of the United States).*

(3) *Section 902 (relating to an allotment for official residences of principal American representatives).*

(4) *Section 903 (relating to accounting for allowances).*

(5) *Section 911 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (7), and (9) (relating to travel expenses).*

(6) *Section 913 (relating to transportation of automobiles).*

(7) *Section 933 (relating to the return of personnel to the United States on leaves of absence).*

(8) *Section 941 (relating to payment by the United States of expenses for treating illness or injury of officers or employees and dependents requiring hospitalization).*

(b) *Personnel of the Veterans' Administration who are United States citizens and are assigned to the Republic of the Philippines by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs may be granted leaves of absence in the United States, by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, similar to that provided by section 203(f) of the Annual and Sick Leave Act of 1951 (5 U.S.C. 2061(f)).*

