

# Calendar No. 1787

80TH CONGRESS }  
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SENATE

} REPORT  
} No. 1727

## AUTHORIZING STATES TO DISREGARD CERTAIN INCOME RECEIVED BY BLIND PERSONS IN DETERMINING NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

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JUNE 16 (legislative day, JUNE 15), 1948.—Ordered to be printed

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

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 6818]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6818), to amend title X of the Social Security Act (relating to aid to the blind) so as to provide greater encouragement to blind recipients thereunder to become self-supporting, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

Under the provisions of title X of the Social Security Act, as amended, one of the standards to which a State plan for aid to the blind must conform to qualify for a Federal grant-in-aid is that the State agency administering the plan in determining need for assistance must take into account any other income and resources of the individual claiming aid. This bill provides an exception to this requirement which will permit any State desiring to modify its plan of assistance to the blind to disregard the first \$40 of monthly income for personal services by a recipient of such aid.

The purpose of the bill is to provide an incentive to blind individuals to pursue gainful occupations.

The bill was reported favorably to the House of Representatives by the Committee on Ways and Means and a copy of its report follows:

This bill is designed to liberalize existing law with respect to payments, by the States, to the needy blind. Any State operating an approved plan of aid to the blind pursuant to title X of the Social Security Act, as amended, would be permitted, under the bill, to disregard the first \$40 of income received for personal services by a recipient of such aid in any calendar month in determining such individual's income and resources and hence his relative need for assistance. Existing law now requires that a State in determining such need, shall "take into consideration any other income and resources of an individual claiming aid to the

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blind." This bill simply adds an exception to this requirement, that permits any such State, if it so desires, to disregard monthly income from personal service in the amount indicated above. The limit of \$10 conforms to the limit recently recommended in another bill with respect to so-called permissive monthly earnings of beneficiaries under the old-age and survivors insurance program.

Enactment of the bill should provide a much needed encouragement to blind individuals to become useful and productive members of their community. The States, of course, will determine whether such encouragement is to become an actuality, by electing to avail themselves of the opportunity extended to them in this bill, to disregard certain income in the measurement of need. The Federal Government cannot properly participate in the blind-aid program to the extent of compelling adoption of any particular test in determining the need for assistance.

The underlying objectives of the bill are in line with recommendations made to your committee from time to time by witnesses appearing in behalf of the blind at hearings on social-security revisions. They have urged, and your committee earnestly believes, that blind individuals should be given every possible incentive to pursue useful occupations.

Aid to the needy blind, in the judgment of your committee is not in the same category with aid programs for the aged, or for other needy individuals. The needy blind are under a double handicap. Their opportunities for gainful employment are sharply reduced and their necessary expenditures are increased by the need for special books, for special medical treatment in some cases, for employment of guides and readers and purchase of special appliances and equipment. As with concessions and special provisions for the blind in other laws, this bill is not regarded by your committee as a precedent for similar treatment for individuals who are not blind.

### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 2a of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as introduced and 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):

#### "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, AS AMENDED

##### "TITLE X—GRANTS TO STATES FOR AID TO THE BLIND

"SEC. 1002. (a) A State plan for aid to the blind must \* \* \* (8) provide that the State agency shall, in determining need, take into consideration any other income and resources of an individual claiming aid to the blind, *except that the State may, in determining the income and resources of an individual, disregard any payments, not in excess of \$40, received in any calendar month by an individual for services performed by him;*"

