

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO  
ACCEPT TITLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO CERTAIN REAL  
PROPERTY TO BE DONATED BY HENRY FORD AND WIFE FOR  
VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION FACILITY PURPOSES

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MARCH 15, 1937.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. BROWN of Michigan, from the Committee on Finance, submitted  
the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 272]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 272) authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to accept title for the United States to certain real property to be donated by Henry Ford and wife for Veterans' Administration facility purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

The adoption of the resolution will result in an economy to the Government by permitting the acceptance on behalf of the United States of approximately 38 acres of land in Wayne County, State of Michigan, to be donated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford to be used as a site for the erection of a new Veterans' Administration facility, including space for a regional office, a suitable site for which would have to be purchased except for the donation.

This joint resolution is recommended for enactment by the Veterans' Administration and the Bureau of the Budget advised that there would be no objection on the part of that office to its presentation to the Congress. The letter of March 5, 1937, from the Veterans' Administration follows:

MARCH 5, 1937.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE:

SIR: There is enclosed herewith a draft of a proposed joint resolution to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to accept title for the United States to certain real property to be donated by Henry Ford and wife for Veterans' Administration facility purposes. It is respectfully requested that you use your good offices in having this measure introduced and expeditiously considered with the view to securing its early passage. A similar request is being made of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The factual background relating to this matter is as follows:

On August 30, 1935, the President approved a resolution of the Federal Board of Hospitalization recommending the erection of a new Veterans' Administration hospital with space for a regional office in or near the city of Detroit, Mich. Funds for the construction of the proposed facility were included in Public, No. 479, Seventy-fourth Congress, approved March 19, 1936. A committee visited Detroit and inspected available sites in that vicinity. Due to the exorbitant prices asked for those that were deemed suitable, it was not possible to select a site that could be purchased and still construct an adequate facility out of the money appropriated therefor. Subsequently, Henry Ford offered to donate the site in question. The Veterans' Administration and the Federal Board of Hospitalization are of the opinion that this offer not only covers a site that is suitable for the erection of a facility but if accepted will permit of the building of a facility better than would be otherwise possible if land on which to build had to be purchased out of available funds.

Legislative authority for acceptance of the property is necessary because of the limitation that the property be used for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining what is now described as a Veterans' Administration facility or which may hereafter be so designated or similarly designated by or in accordance with law, which may include domiciliary, hospital, regional office, and such other activities essential to the functioning of the facility and when no longer used for this purpose the property is to revert to the grantors, their heirs, executors, or assigns.

By letter of May 12, 1936, the matter of the proposed donation by Mr. Ford was submitted to the Director of Procurement, Treasury Department, and on the same date a clearance was given by that office. Under date of March 4, 1937, the Bureau of the Budget advised that there would be no objection on the part of that office to its presentation to the Congress.

Your cooperation in connection with this matter will be very much appreciated.

Respectfully,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

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