

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO GRANT AN EASEMENT IN A SMALL STRIP OF LAND AT VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION FACILITY, LOS ANGELES, CALIF., TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF., FOR SIDEWALK PURPOSES

SEPTEMBER 9 (legislative day, August 5), 1940.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 10267]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10267) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement in a small strip of land at Veterans' Administration facility, Los Angeles, Calif., to the county of Los Angeles, Calif., for sidewalk purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purposes of this bill and the reason for its enactment are explained in the report of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds which accompanied it in the House of Representatives. The report is as follows:

[H. Rept. No. 2830, 76th Cong., 3d sess.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10267) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement in a small strip of land at Veterans' Administration Facility, Los Angeles, Calif., to the county of Los Angeles, Calif., for sidewalk purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

This bill was drafted and submitted by Gen. Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, as shown by the following letter:

JULY 26, 1940.

Hon. WILLIAM B. BANKHEAD,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There is transmitted herewith a draft of a bill to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to grant an easement in a small strip of land at Veterans' Administration Facility, Los Angeles, Calif., to the county of Los Angeles, Calif., for sidewalk purposes, with the request that it be referred to the appropriate committee of the House of Representatives in order that it may be introduced and pressed for passage at an early date.

Under date of October 2, 1928, the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, being authorized by the act of March 21, 1866 (14 Stat. 10), to take, hold, and convey real and personal property, granted an easement to the county of Los Angeles for the improvement of Wilshire Boulevard, which boulevard, as will be noted from the enclosed map, runs through the Veterans' Administration Facility (formerly a branch of the National Soldiers' Home), located in Los Angeles County. At the time of this conveyance there was inadvertently omitted from the deed a 10-foot strip of land, over which a sidewalk was constructed by the county of Los Angeles. This sidewalk is now in need of repair, but the officials of Los Angeles County are of the opinion that since they have neither title to nor an easement over the property they are without authority to undertake this work.

By virtue of the "Consolidation Act" of July 3, 1930 (38 U. S. C. 11b), title to the lands comprising the reservations of the former National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was vested in the United States. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs does not have authority to convey or dispose of lands belonging to the United States and under the control of the Veterans' Administration. Nor does the purpose for which it is desired to convey an easement in this 10-foot strip of land come within the purview of the Federal Highway Act (23 U. S. C. 1-25) or title II of the act of June 16, 1933 (40 U. S. C. 401-414), which authorize officials of the Federal Government to convey lands to the States for highway purposes under conditions specified therein.

In view of the urgent need for repair of this sidewalk, the situation has been temporarily met by the issuance of a revocable license to the county of Los Angeles.

It is in the interest of the Veterans' Administration to grant a right-of-way to the property in question, thus relieving the Federal Government of the expense incident to the maintenance of a sidewalk along Wilshire Boulevard between Veteran and Gayley Avenues, as described in the enclosed draft.

Clearance for granting the proposed easement was obtained from the Administrator, Federal Works Agency, under date of June 13, 1940. Information has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the submission of this proposed legislation for the consideration of the Congress.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

The purpose of this bill is to correct a mistake in the original conveyance of an easement which inadvertently omitted from the deed conveying an easement to the city of Los Angeles, Calif., a 10-foot strip of land over which was constructed a sidewalk which is now in need of repair. The city of Los Angeles is without authority to proceed with the repair of the sidewalk until the original granting of the easement is perfected.

