

## PROVIDING FOR REHABILITATION OF VETERANS DISABLED IN THE PRESENT WAR

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Mr. CLARK of Missouri, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 786]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 786) to amend title I of Public Law No. 2, Seventy-third Congress, March 20, 1933, and the Veterans Regulations to provide for rehabilitation of disabled veterans, and for other purposes, having considered the same, submit the following report thereon, with the recommendation that it do pass, with the following amendment:

On page 4, line 22, after the word "a" and before the word "handicap" strike out the words "material and permanent".

This bill is identical with H. R. 801, Seventy-eighth Congress, which was favorably reported by the Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation, House of Representatives, February 3, 1943. Hearings on S. 786 were conducted on February 25 and March 1, 1943. Representatives of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars strongly endorse and recommend the immediate passage of this measure. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs has advised the committee that this bill will accomplish the purposes sought and represents the most simplified manner of drafting by utilizing, as far as practicable, the existing laws pertaining to veterans. By making the act a part of the present system of beneficial laws there will be for application all of the administrative, regulatory, and penal provisions thereof.

Your committee are convinced that the matter of rehabilitation of the disabled veterans of the present war must be recognized as a separate and distinct function of the Federal Government as it has been heretofore recognized for disabled veterans of World War I. The measure recognizes the necessity for administration of all veterans' benefits by one agency, namely, the one established for this purpose, the Veterans' Administration. Facilities of the Veterans' Administration are already established and will be utilized, as far as practicable, in the administration of this measure. The measure

provides that the Administrator shall have the power and duty to provide suitable training to persons included in the act, and to utilize and extend existing Veterans' Administration facilities and to utilize, with or without compensation as may be agreed, those of any other governmental agency, as well as those maintained by joint Federal and State contribution; and also provides for contract with public or private institutions for such additional training facilities as may be suitable and necessary under the act.

Enactment of this proposed measure will facilitate a most practical method of administering rehabilitation, with the assurance that it will be administered in correlation with related benefits and by an agency fully informed regarding the problems of veterans generally as well as having the complete information pertaining to the individual disabled war veterans.

The proposed measure contains provisions designed to profit by the experience in administration of rehabilitation for World War I by the Veterans' Bureau, and will minimize duplication of existing agencies. This measure also avoids the complications, duplications, and impaired service to veterans which existed prior to August 9, 1921, when World War I veterans' benefits were administered by separate agencies. The act of August 9, 1921, placed rehabilitation with other World War I benefits under the Veterans' Bureau. Further consolidation of laws pertaining to veterans was effected by the act of July 3, 1930. This measure, S. 786, is in accord with such principle and policy.

No course of training in excess of 4 years may be approved nor may any training be afforded beyond 6 years after termination of the present war.

While pursuing training under the act and for 2 months after, until his employability is determined, each veteran, if entitled to pension in an amount less than the amount payable in accordance with the compensation rates for total and temporary disability, including additional amounts for wife, child, or children, and dependent parents, provided by section 202, World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, shall be paid increased pension, which when added to the amount of pension to which he is otherwise entitled, will aggregate an amount equal to such rates.

The rates of compensation under this provision will be as follows:

If the disabled person has neither wife nor child, \$80 monthly; if he has a wife but no child, \$90 monthly; if he has a wife and one child, \$95 monthly, and \$5 for each additional child; if he has no wife but one child living, \$90, with \$5 for each additional child; if he has a mother or father, either or both dependent on him for support, \$10 for each parent so dependent.

Speedy enactment of this measure is urged in order that rehabilitation will be available to approximately 800 disabled veterans of the present war at present entitled thereto, and to discharge our obligation in this regard to the future eligibles.

The program of benefits administered by the Veterans' Administration, such as hospital care, out-patient treatment, prosthetic appliances, and pensions, will be rounded out by extending the care to include rehabilitation—that is, care, training, and placement in gainful occupations in accordance with the liberal policy of the Government toward its war disabled.