

TRANSFER OF LAND TO ARMORY BOARD, STATE OF UTAH

JULY 12 (legislative day, JULY 2), 1954.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3561]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3561) authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey certain property to the Armory Board, State of Utah, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

On page 1, line 9, before the word "Salt" insert the following: "Fort Douglas Station,".

This amendment clarifies which of the two hospital reservations maintained by the Veterans' Administration at Salt Lake City is the subject of S. 3561.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The bill proposes to authorize and direct the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey to the Armory Board, State of Utah, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a tract of 35 acres of land, more or less, situated in the western end of the Veterans' Administration hospital reservation, Salt Lake City, Utah, the exact legal description of which shall be determined by the Administrator. Under the terms of the bill, the deed of conveyance shall (a) provide that the tract shall be used by the Armory Board for training, civic, and related purposes and shall not be alienated; (b) provide that if the tract is used in any manner that, in the judgment of the Administrator or his designate, interferes with the care and treatment of patients in the Veterans' Administration hospital located on land contiguous to the tract, such interference shall cease immediately

upon notice thereof to the Armory Board; (c) provide for reversion of the tract to the United States if any of the foregoing conditions are violated, and (d) contain such additional terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions as may be determined by the Administrator to be necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

Pursuant to section 102 of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 204; 38 U. S. C. 693b), and in accordance with a resolution of the Federal Board of Hospitalization, dated September 10, 1946, which was approved by the President on September 26, 1946, the Secretary of the Army transferred 260 acres in the southwest corner of the Fort Douglas, Utah, military reservation to the Veterans' Administration, without reimbursement of funds, on January 19, 1948. The records of the Veterans' Administration disclose that the Fort Douglas Military Reservation, including the mentioned 260 acres, was reserved from the public domain lands, by Executive order of the President, dated September 3, 1867. After the 260-acre tract was transferred to the Veterans' Administration, a hospital was built thereon which was opened in September 1952. It is presently operated as a 546-bed hospital with a preponderance of neuropsychiatric patients.

By letter of January 12, 1954, addressed to the manager of the Salt Lake City Hospital, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard advised that the Utah National Guard desired a tract of 35 acres, more or less, located in the western end of the mentioned Veterans' Administration hospital reservation on which it planned to construct 2 armories, a drill hall, a supply warehouse, 4 motor-vehicle storage buildings, and a maintenance shop. S. 3561 is designed to authorize conveyance of the desired tract of land.

The report of the Veterans' Administration on July 7, 1954, stated as follows:

It is believed that the transfer of the land to the Armory Board, State of Utah, under the terms and conditions set forth in the bill and its use for training, civic, and related purposes would not interfere with the present or prospective operation of the Veterans' Administration hospital located on a contiguous tract of land. Accordingly, the Veterans' Administration would interpose no objection to the favorable consideration of S. 3561 by your committee.

The Bureau of the Budget has also advised it has no objection to the enactment of this measure.

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