

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR FIRE-STATION PURPOSES

FEBRUARY 22, 1945.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 531]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 531) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to transfer by quitclaim deed to the city of Los Angeles, Calif., for fire-station purposes, the title to certain land located at Veterans' Administration facility, Los Angeles, Calif., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

This bill was recommended by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs after clearance by the Bureau of the Budget. It is identical with S. 2185 of the Seventy-eighth Congress, which passed the Senate December 1, 1944, but was not considered in the House owing to the shortness of time before the adjournment of the Congress.

The purpose of the bill is to transfer, by quitclaim deed, to the city of Los Angeles, Calif., title to a small tract of land, 0.344 acre, located at the Veterans' Administration facility, Los Angeles, for fire-station purposes, in consideration of the furnishing by the city of Los Angeles of fire-protection service on a 24-hour basis to any and all parts of the Veterans' Administration facility, which includes a large number of buildings in which there are housed regional-office activities, 1,635 hospital patients, and 1,953 domiciliary members.

The letter of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, which follows, sets forth the facts concerning this proposal and a detailed explanation of the need for the bill.

OCTOBER 27, 1944.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
The Capitol, Washington, D. C.

SIR: There are forwarded herewith two copies of a draft of a proposed bill entitled "A bill to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to transfer by quitclaim deed to the city of Los Angeles, Calif., for fire-station purposes, the title to certain land located at Veterans' Administration facility, Los Angeles, Calif.,"

with the request that same be introduced and referred to the appropriate committee for consideration. There are also enclosed two copies of a black and white print, showing the location of the land described in the bill.

The purpose of the bill is to transfer, by quitclaim deed, to the city of Los Angeles, State of California, the title to a small tract of land, comprising approximately 0.344 acre, located at the Veterans' Administration facility, Los Angeles, Calif., for fire-station purposes in consideration of the furnishing by the city of Los Angeles of fire-protection service on a 24-hour basis to any and all parts of the Veterans' Administration facility at Los Angeles, Calif., which includes a large number of buildings in which there are housed regional-office activities, 1,635 hospital patients, and 1,953 domiciliary members.

This tract of land has been occupied and used for fire-station purposes by the city of Los Angeles, Calif., since January 1, 1942, under the terms of a 3-year lease entered into by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to authority contained in section 29, World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended (43 Stat. 615; U. S. C., title 38, sec. 455), and the city of Los Angeles, Calif., pursuant to resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, Calif., July 17, 1941. This lease was entered into so as to permit the erection and maintenance of a fire station on the facility reservation, pending consideration by the Congress of proposed legislation to be recommended by the Veterans' Administration authorizing conveyance of title to the city of Los Angeles, Calif., of the tract so occupied and used for fire-station purposes at the Los Angeles facility, such grant to be subject to the condition that 24-hour fire protection be furnished to all accessible parts of said facility and to the condition that the property shall revert to the United States upon the failure of the city of Los Angeles to either furnish such fire protection or to use the land for fire-station purposes, except in the event that such failure to so furnish fire protection is temporary and is due to conditions beyond the control of the city of Los Angeles.

Under the provisions of section 29 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, supra, the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is authorized, in his discretion, to lease, for a term not exceeding 3 years, lands or buildings, or parts or parcels thereof belonging to the United States and under the control of the Veterans' Administration. The lease entered into with the city of Los Angeles, Calif., will expire December 31, 1944, at the expiration of the 3-year term. It is desirable, therefore, if continued fire-service protection is to be supplied the Veterans' Administration facility by the city of Los Angeles, Calif., after such date, that title to said tract of land be transferred to the city of Los Angeles, Calif., as proposed in the draft of the bill herewith submitted. It is believed that the interests of the United States will be properly safeguarded by the express reservation for reversion of all right, title, and interest in such property to the United States should the city of Los Angeles, Calif., fail, except under the circumstances aforementioned, to furnish 24-hour fire-protection service to any and all parts of the Veterans' Administration facility, Los Angeles, Calif., or to use the property for fire-station purposes. The bill would permit the city of Los Angeles to remove the buildings and structures existing on the property in the event of reversion of all right, title, and interest in the property to the United States, upon condition that the city of Los Angeles restore the land as nearly as possible to its former condition without expense to the United States.

The property in question has been cleared for disposition as proposed, submission having been made to the Commissioner of Public Buildings, Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency, pursuant to the provisions of section F of the regulations approved by the President April 12, 1935, governing the operation of the Procurement Division, Branch of Supply, Treasury Department, which was transferred to Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency, as prescribed in part 3, Reorganization Plan No. 1 under the provisions of the Reorganization Act of 1939 approved April 3, 1939.

In view of the fact that the services to be rendered by the city of Los Angeles, Calif., as a consideration of such a grant are in the public interest and of inestimable value to the extensive property comprising the Veterans' Administration facility at Los Angeles, Calif., it is desirable that this legislation be secured at the earliest possible date.

Advice has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that office to the submission of the proposed legislation to the Congress for its consideration.

Respectfully,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*