

PROVIDING SEEING-EYE DOGS FOR BLIND VETERANS

MAY 5 (legislative day, APRIL 12), 1944.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GEORGE (for Mr. CLARK of Missouri), from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4519]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4519) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to furnish seeing-eye dogs for blind veterans, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, under such regulations as he may prescribe, to provide seeing-eye dogs or trained guide dogs for the aid of blind veterans who are entitled to disability compensation or pension under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration, and to pay all the necessary expenses of such veterans incurred in obtaining and becoming adjusted to such dogs and in traveling to and from their homes for that purpose. The bill authorizes an appropriation of \$1,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes of the act.

The use of trained guide dogs to aid the blind has been developed to such an extent as to aid blind individuals remarkably in going about from place to place. It is entirely consistent with the obligation which the Nation owes to disabled veterans that every reasonable means of assisting blind veterans should be utilized. Thus the committee is of the opinion that the Government should provide these trained guide dogs to blind veterans in appropriate cases.