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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 5, 1866.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. TRUMBULL asked and obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

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**A BILL**

To enlarge the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That the act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen  
4 and Refugees, approved March 3, 1865, shall continue until  
5 otherwise provided for by law, and shall extend to refugees  
6 and freedmen in all parts of the United States, and the Presi-  
7 dent may divide the section of country containing such  
8 refugees and freedmen into districts, each containing one or  
9 more States, not to exceed twelve in number, and by and with  
10 the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint an Assistant  
11 Commissioner for each of said districts, who shall give like  
12 bond, receive the same compensation, and perform the same  
13 duties prescribed by this and the act to which this is an  
14 amendment; said bureau may, in the discretion of the Presi-

15 dent, be placed under a Commissioner and Assistant Commis-  
16 sioners, to be detailed from the army, in which event each  
17 officer so assigned to duty shall serve without increase of pay  
18 or allowances.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Commis-  
2 sioner, with the approval of the President, shall divide each  
3 district into a number of sub-districts, not to exceed the  
4 number of counties or parishes in each State, and shall  
5 assign to each sub-district at least one agent, either a citizen,  
6 officer of the army or enlisted man, who, if an officer,  
7 shall serve without additional compensation or allowance,  
8 and if a citizen or enlisted man, shall receive a salary not  
9 exceeding fifteen hundred dollars per annum; and such agent  
10 shall, before entering on the duties of his office, take the oath  
11 prescribed in the first section of the act to which this is an  
12 amendment. Each Assistant Commissioner may employ not  
13 exceeding six clerks, one of the third class, and five of the  
14 first class, and each agent of a sub-district may employ two  
15 clerks of the first class. And the President of the United  
16 States, through the War Department, and the Commissioner,  
17 shall extend military jurisdiction and protection over all  
18 employees, agents, and officers of this bureau.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary  
2 of War may direct such issues of provisions, clothing, fuel,  
3 and other supplies, including medical stores and transporta-

4 tion, and afford such aid, medical or otherwise, as he may  
5 deem needful for the immediate and temporary shelter and  
6 supply of destitute and suffering refugees and freedmen, their  
7 wives and children, under such rules and regulations as he  
8 may direct.

1       SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the President  
2 may, for settlement in the manner prescribed by section  
3 four of the act to which this is an amendment, reserve from  
4 sale or settlement, under the homestead or pre-emption laws,  
5 public lands in Florida, Mississippi, and Arkansas, not to ex-  
6 ceed three millions of acres of good land in all, provided the  
7 rental named in said section four be determined in such man-  
8 ner as the Commissioner shall by regulation prescribe.

1       SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the possessory  
2 titles granted in pursuance of Major General Sherman's spe-  
3 cial field order, dated at Savannah, January sixteen, eighteen  
4 hundred and sixty-five, are hereby confirmed and made valid.

1       SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the Commissioner,  
2 under the direction of the President, is hereby empowered to  
3 purchase or rent such tracts of land in the several districts,  
4 aforesaid, as may be necessary to provide for the indigent  
5 refugees and freedmen dependent upon the government for  
6 support; also to purchase sites and buildings for schools and  
7 asylums, to be held as United States property, until the refu-

8 gees or freedmen shall purchase the same, or they shall be  
9 otherwise disposed of by the Commissioner.

1       SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever in  
2 any State or district in which the ordinary course of judicial  
3 proceedings has been interrupted by the rebellion, and  
4 wherein, in consequence of any State or local law, ordinance,  
5 police, or other regulation, custom or prejudice, any of the  
6 civil rights or immunities belonging to white persons, including  
7 the right to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, and  
8 give evidence, to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold and convey  
9 real and personal property, and to have full and equal benefit  
10 of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and  
11 estate, are refused or denied to negroes, mulattoes, freedmen,  
12 refugees, or any other persons, on account of race, color, or  
13 any previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude,  
14 except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall  
15 have been duly convicted, or wherein they or any of them  
16 are subjected to any other or different punishment, pains, or  
17 penalties, for the commission of any act or offence, than are  
18 prescribed for white persons committing like acts or offences,  
19 it shall be the duty of the President of the United States,  
20 through the Commissioner, to extend military protection and  
21 jurisdiction over all cases affecting such persons so discrimi-  
22 nated against.

1       SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That any person who,

2 under color of any State or local law, ordinance, police, or  
3 other regulation or custom, shall, in any State or district in  
4 which the ordinary course of judicial proceedings has been  
5 interrupted by the rebellion, subject, or cause to be subjected,  
6 any negro, mulatto, freedman, refugee, or other person, on  
7 account of race or color, or any previous condition of slavery  
8 or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime  
9 whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, or for any  
10 other cause, to the deprivation of any civil right secured to  
11 white persons, or to any other or different punishment than  
12 white persons are subject to for the commission of like acts  
13 or offences, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be  
14 punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or im-  
15 prisonment not exceeding one year, or both; and it  
16 shall be the duty of the officers and agents of this  
17 bureau to take jurisdiction of, and hear and determine  
18 all offences committed against the provisions of this sec-  
19 tion, and also of all cases affecting negroes, mulattoes,  
20 freedmen, refugees, or other persons who are discriminated  
21 against in any of the particulars mentioned in the preceding  
22 section of this act, under such rules and regulations as the  
23 President of the United States, through the War Department,  
24 shall prescribe. The jurisdiction conferred by this section on  
25 the officers and agents of this bureau to cease and determine  
26 whenever the discrimination on account of which it is con-

.27 ferred ceases, and in no event to be exercised in any State in  
28 which the ordinary course of judicial proceedings has not  
29 been interrupted by the rebellion, nor in any such State after  
30 said State shall have been fully restored in all its constitu-  
31 tional relations to the United States, and the courts of the  
32 State and of the United States within the same are not dis-  
33 turbed or stopped in the peaceable course of justice.

1       SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts, or  
2 parts of acts, inconsistent with the provisions of this act are  
3 hereby repealed.



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