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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 19, 1865.

Mr. DOOLITTLE asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia.

DECEMBER 21, 1865.

Ordered to be printed.

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**A BILL**

In relation to 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 President of the United States be authorized to  
4       extend and maintain a branch of the Freedmen's Bureau, under  
5       the control of the War Department, in all States or parts of  
6       States wherein, by the operations of the war to suppress the  
7       late insurrection, or by the adoption of any amendment to  
8       the Constitution of the United States, any persons theretofore  
9       held to slavery or involuntary servitude shall have been, or  
10      may hereafter be, emancipated.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That from all such  
2       States or parts of States wherein such persons shall have been,  
3       or may hereafter be, emancipated, the President is authorized

4 to suspend or withdraw, in whole or in part, the operations  
5 of said bureau, and the military forces necessary to sustain  
6 the same, whenever he shall become satisfied that hostilities  
7 have ceased; the insurrection has been suppressed; that peace  
8 and order have been restored; that the civil authority of the  
9 United States has been re-established; that the civil authority  
10 of the State has been so far restored as to secure the impar-  
11 tial administration of its laws; and that the laws of such  
12 States or the customs thereof, having the force of law, estab-  
13 lishing, maintaining, recognizing, or regulating slavery or in-  
14 voluntary servitude, except in punishment for crime, or the  
15 relations of master and servant, employer and employee have  
16 been repealed or modified so as to secure the equal protection  
17 of all persons in all the civil rights of person and property  
18 known to or secured by the common law, without distinction  
19 of class, race, or color, including the right to make and to  
20 enforce contracts; to sue and be sued; to appear as parties  
21 or witnesses in all legal proceedings; to purchase, hold, lease,  
22 sell, and convey real and personal estate; and all the rights  
23 of protection to person, property, and personal liberty: *Pro-*  
24 *vided*, That, at any time within five years after the suspen-  
25 sion or withdrawal of the same from any State or part of a  
26 State, the President shall be authorized to re-establish the  
27 operations of said bureau, under the charge of the War De-

28 partment, whenever he shall have satisfactory evidence of the  
29 failure of any one of the above-mentioned conditions upon  
30 which said suspension or withdrawal was made.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the rules and  
2 regulations prescribed by the head of said bureau from time  
3 to time, when approved by the President, shall be submitted  
4 to Congress, if in session, and if not in session to the next  
5 Congress after the same shall have been made and approved  
6 by him, for the approval or disapproval of Congress; and that  
7 all such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the Con-  
8 stitution of the United States or the laws of Congress, shall  
9 have the force and effect of law until the same shall be an-  
10 nulled, repealed, or modified by law.

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