
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 24, 1868.

Mr. HOWARD 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, and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

Relating to the Freedmen's Bureau and providing for its discontinuance.

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 duties and powers of Commissioner of the Bureau
4 for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees shall continue to be
5 discharged by the present Commissioner of the Bureau, and
6 in case of vacancy in said office occurring by reason of his
7 death or resignation, the same shall be filled by appointment
8 of the President on the nomination of the Secretary of War,
9 and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and no officer
10 of the army shall be detailed for service as Commissioner or
11 shall enter upon the duties of Commissioner unless appointed
12 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and all
13 assistant commissioners shall be appointed by the Secretary
14 of War on the nomination of the Commissioner of the bureau.

15 In case of vacancy in the office of Commissioner happening
16 during the recess of the Senate, the duties of Commissioner
17 shall be discharged by the acting assistant adjutant general of
18 the bureau until such vacancy can be filled.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Commis-
2 sioner of the bureau shall, on the first day of January next,
3 cause the said bureau to be withdrawn from the several States
4 within which said bureau has acted and its operations discon-
5 tinued as soon as the same may be done without injury to the
6 government. But the educational department of the said
7 bureau and the collection and payment of moneys due the
8 soldiers, sailors, and marines, or their heirs, shall be continued
9 as now provided by law until otherwise ordered by act of
10 Congress : *Provided, however*, That the provisions of this
11 section shall not apply to any State which shall not, on the
12 first of January next, be restored to its former political rela-
13 tions with the government of the United States, and be
14 entitled to representation in Congress.

40TH CONGRESS, }
2D SESSION. } **S. 567.**

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