

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 20, 1865.

Read twice and referred to the Select Committee on Slavery and Freedmen.

**AN ACT**

To establish, in the War Department, a Bureau for the Relief of  
Freedmen and Refugees.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That a bureau be established in the War Department, to con-  
4       tinue during the present rebellion, to which shall be committed  
5       the supervision, management, and control of all subjects re-  
6       lating to refugees and freedmen from rebel States, or from  
7       any district of country within the territory embraced in the  
8       operations of the army, under such rules and regulations as  
9       may be prescribed by the head of the department and ap-  
10       proved by the President. The said bureau shall have one  
11       chief, to be appointed by the President, by and with the ad-  
12       vice and consent of the Senate, whose compensation shall be  
13       three thousand dollars per annum, and such number of clerks  
14       as may be deemed necessary by the chief of the bureau, and  
15       approved by the Secretary of War, not exceeding two of the

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