
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 19, 1864.

Mr. FOSTER asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the select Committee on Slavery and Freedmen, and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

To provide for the renting of abandoned lands, tenements, and houses in insurrectionary States, and for the care and employment of persons therein set free by proclamation of the President.

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 leases of abandoned plantations in insurrectionary
4 States for the current year made by the supervising agents of
5 the Treasury Department, to whom the renting of lands,
6 tenements, and houses was confided by order of the Secre-
7 tary of War, dated October ninth, one thousand eight hundred
8 and sixty-three, and the rules and regulations made to govern
9 the same shall have the same force and effect as if made
10 under an act of Congress.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary
2 of the Treasury, with the approval of the President, is

3 hereby authorized to require said agents and their assistants
4 to receive, take charge of, and rent for a term not exceeding
5 twelve months, the lands, tenements, and houses within their
6 respective agencies, in States declared in insurrection, that have
7 been voluntarily abandoned by the lawful owners thereof,
8 and also to provide for the employment and general welfare
9 of all persons within the lines of national military occupation
10 formerly held as slaves and set free by proclamation of the
11 President.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary
2 of War is hereby authorized, with the approval of the Presi-
3 dent, to promise such military protection to lessees and
4 others, employing the persons aforesaid, as can properly be
5 done without interfering with general military operations.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary
2 of the Treasury, with the approval of the President, shall
3 make, or cause to be made, all necessary rules and regula-
4 tions for carrying out the provisions of this act, and he is
5 hereby authorized to pay the expenses properly incurred
6 under this act, out of any moneys received from said rents,
7 or from sales of captured and abandoned property, under the
8 act of Congress approved March twelve, eighteen hundred
9 and sixty-three.

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