

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 18, 1864.

Mr. HOWE asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Select Committee on Slavery and Freedmen

APRIL 4, 1864.

Ordered to be printed.

A BILL

Establishing a Bureau of Emancipation.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That an office, to be designated the Bureau of Emancipation,
4 under the supervision of the Secretary of the Treasury, is
5 hereby established; and the head of said bureau shall be a
6 Commissioner of Emancipation, who shall be appointed by
7 the President of the United States, with the advice and con-
8 sent of the Senate.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all laws of
2 the United States, proclamations of the President, or military
3 orders, now or hereafter in force, affecting in any manner
4 the freedom of persons of African descent heretofore or
5 hereafter held as slaves in any State or Territory of the

6 United States, shall be executed by the Commissioner of said
7 Bureau of Emancipation, under and by the advice and direc-
8 tion of the Secretary of the Treasury.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary
2 of the Treasury shall, immediately upon the approval of this
3 act and the appointment by the President of said Commis-
4 sioner of Emancipation, cause said bureau of emancipation to
5 be organized. And the salaries of said Commissioner and the
6 clerks of said bureau shall be paid out of the general appro-
7 priations, in the usual manner; the salary of said Commissioner
8 not to exceed four thousand dollars, and that of the clerks not
9 to exceed two thousand dollars per annum, in the discretion
10 of the Secretary of the Treasury.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That said Commis-
2 sioner shall, immediately upon his appointment, seize all the
3 houses, tenements, and lands, with the appurtenances thereon,
4 lying within the rebellious States and Territories of the
5 United States, subject to seizure and confiscation by any law
6 of the United States now in force or hereafter enacted;
7 and said Commissioner shall institute and prosecute the
8 necessary proceedings to effect and complete the confiscation
9 of said houses, tenements, and lands, with their appurte-
10 nances, as provided by law; and he shall continue to hold
11 possession, have charge of, and control the same, until other-

12 wise disposed of by absolute sale, pre-emption, or redemption,
13 pursuant to law.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That all commanders
2 of military departments, districts, and posts, or other persons
3 having in charge any of the persons of African descent freed
4 by any law of the United States, proclamation of the Presi-
5 dent, or military order, except such as are actually in the
6 military or naval service of the United States, and all com-
7 manders of military departments, districts, and posts, or other
8 persons having in charge any houses, tenements, lands, and
9 appurtenances mentioned in the fourth section of this act,
10 except such as are necessary for the especial use of the army
11 and navy of the United States, are hereby directed to deliver
12 possession of the same, on demand, to the said Commissioner
13 of the Bureau of Emancipation, or his authorized agents. And
14 in consideration of the changed condition of the persons of
15 African descent referred to in this act, by acts of the govern-
16 ment, they are hereby declared wards of the government and
17 entitled to its protection, which protection shall continue until
18 further legislation may be had in the premises.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That said Commis-
2 sioner is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint and
3 commission such number of clerks, agents, managers, super-
4 intendants, surgeons, chaplains, and school teachers as he
5 may, from time to time, find necessary to effectually carry

6 out the spirit and intent of this act, and necessary to the
7 execution of the powers and duties granted and imposed
8 herein; and he may, in his discretion, establish “productive
9 armed occupances” upon any lands or plantations coming
10 under his control by operation of this act, provided that the
11 proportion of such occupants shall not be less than one hun-
12 dred loyal white male citizens to one thousand laboring freed
13 male persons; and, in case of the formation of such “pro-
14 ductive armed occupances,” the Secretary of War is hereby
15 directed to furnish the necessary arms and ammunition on the
16 application of the said Commissioner; and the said Secretary
17 of War shall order and direct all commanders of military
18 departments, districts, and posts to render to the said Com-
19 missioner, his agents, managers, and superintendents such
20 assistance and aid as may be necessary to enable them to
21 obtain possession of the houses, tenements, lands, and appur-
22 tenances mentioned in this act, and to maintain their author-
23 ity over the same.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That any person
2 claiming to have owned any of the houses, tenements, or
3 lands liable to seizure and confiscation, or who may claim
4 rights of property in persons of African descent, who shall
5 voluntarily surrender all such property and persons to the
6 control of the “Bureau of Emancipation,” and subscribe and
7 take the required oath of allegiance, shall be deemed to have

8 complied with the conditions of the President's proclamation
9 of amnesty and pardon. And the said Commissioner shall
10 cause a descriptive record to be kept of persons so delivering
11 up property or persons and taking said oath, and report said
12 record quarterly to the Secretaries of War and State, and
13 the said Secretary of War and Secretary of State shall cause
14 a permanent record of such reports to be made in each of
15 their departments; and, if found necessary, are hereby author-
16 ized to employ each an additional clerk for that purpose.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That all regulations
2 relating to the leasing of property coming into the possession
3 of the Bureau of Emancipation, and all regulations for the
4 disposition of freed persons coming into the charge of the
5 Bureau of Emancipation, and the establishment of schools
6 among them, shall be made by said Commissioner of Eman-
7 cipation, subject to the examination and revision of the Sec-
8 retary of the Treasury; and the said Commissioner is hereby
9 authorized to lease any and all property coming into his pos-
10 session, in pursuance of the provisions of this act, in such
11 manner as he may deem most to the advantage of the freed
12 persons in his charge and for the public good.

1 SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of
2 the Treasury shall appoint a receiver of the revenues arising
3 from the management of the property coming under the con-
4 trol of the "Bureau of Emancipation," and shall require of

5 such receiver a sufficient bond, with sufficient sureties; and
6 the said receiver shall be an officer of the Bureau of Eman-
7 cipation, and shall receive and disburse the said funds accord-
8 ing to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the
9 Treasury may determine; and the Commissioner of Emanci-
10 pation shall cause all persons employed by him, as Commis-
11 sioner of Emancipation to pay over to the said receiver all
12 moneys coming into their hands in any manner from the
13 management of said property, and may require of his agents
14 and employees such security as he may deem sufficient for
15 the faithful discharge of their duties. The salary of said
16 receiver shall not exceed three thousand dollars per annum,
17 in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury.

1 SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the Commis-
2 sioner of Emancipation shall have power, and is hereby au-
3 thorized, to receive, transport, locate, hire out to labor, and
4 apprentice to mechanical trades or other labor any and all
5 freed persons who shall come under the supervision of the
6 Bureau of Emancipation by virtue of the provisions of this
7 act, or any other law of Congress, proclamation of the Presi-
8 dent, or by voluntary surrender, as provided by section seven
9 of this act, and to provide them with food, clothing, and
10 shelter, at the expense of the government; and may use boats
11 or other government conveyances for the purpose of trans-

12 portation when such use of them will not be inconsistent with
13 the military or other service of the government.

1 SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the Commis-
2 sioner of Emancipation and Receiver of the Bureau of
3 Emancipation shall each report annually to the Secretary of
4 the Treasury, who shall communicate said reports to Con-
5 gress with his annual report; and all the expenses of exe-
6 cuting and carrying into operation and effect the provisions of
7 this act shall be audited by the Secretary of the Treasury,
8 and paid by him out of any appropriate fund or appro-
9 priation.

1 SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That all freed per-
2 sons coming under the supervision of the Bureau of Emanci-
3 pation shall have the same rights in all civil and military
4 courts of the United States as citizens of the United States
5 have, and all persons of African descent residing within any
6 State or Territory of the United States, (having been born
7 in the United States,) who can read and write the English
8 language, on the first day of January, anno Domini eighteen
9 hundred and eighty-five, are hereby declared citizens of the
10 United States.

1 SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That all provisions
2 of law inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

38TH CONGRESS, }
1ST SESSION. } **S. 63.**

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