
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 21, 1870.

Mr. PATTERSON asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the Joint Select Committee on Retrenchment, and ordered to be printed.

FEBRUARY 21, 1870.

Reported by Mr. PATTERSON with amendments, viz: Strike out the parts in [brackets] and insert the parts printed in *italics*.

A BILL

To abolish the Freedmen's Bureau, and provide for the Bureau of Education.

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 Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned
4 Lands be, and is hereby, abolished; and that the President
5 by the selection of an officer, or officers and assistants, shall
6 direct the conduct, in the War Department, of so much of the
7 duties of said bureau as relates to the collection and payment
8 of bounties, arrears of pay, prize money, or other moneys due
9 to colored soldiers, sailors, and marines, and their heirs, as
10 heretofore authorized by law to be made by the Commissioner
11 of said bureau; and that all hospitals and asylums, [and]
12 *with the* funds, and property belonging to [them] *the same*

13 shall remain under the direction of the War Department;
14 provided said Commissioner shall have three months to settle
15 his accounts with the treasury.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* [That the educational
2 authority, and funds and property of the Freedmen's Bureau,
3 together with such clerks as shall be required, be, and are
4 hereby, transferred to the Department of Education, which
5 shall hereafter be known as the Bureau of Education, and
6 shall be in the Department of the Interior, and shall be vested
7 with power and authority to co-operate with other organiza-
8 tions, either benevolent or State, territorial, county, or muni-
9 cipal, in the establishment of schools among all classes of per-
10 sons; and said bureau, in its organization and conduct in the
11 collection and dissemination of statistics and information for
12 the promotion of the best systems of education, and in ex-
13 tending the co-operation authorized therein, shall proceed in
14 accordance with rules and regulations approved by the Presi-
15 dent, for the purpose of assuring impartial and universal edu-
16 cation in virtue and intelligence throughout the territory of
17 the United States; and all educational grants by the Commis-
18 sioner of the Freedmen's Bureau are hereby confirmed: *Pro-*
19 *vided,* That said grants of aid, whether of money or prop-
20 erty, under whatever designation, shall be forever used for
21 such educational purposes, and in case of any perversion of
22 the same, shall revert to the Bureau of Education, to which

23 all societies or organizations, voluntary or incorporated, State,
24 territorial, county, or municipal, heretofore or hereafter
25 aided by the national government, shall make such report
26 as shall be required by the Commissioner of Education.]

27 *That the funds and property of the Freedmen's Bureau ap-*
28 *propriated by existing laws for the purposes of education, with*
29 *the power and authority over the same granted by said laws*
30 *be, and hereby are, transferred to, and conferred upon the*
31 *Bureau of Education; and the clerical force now authorized*
32 *by law, to be employed by the Freedmen's Bureau for the*
33 *educational purposes of that bureau, is hereby continued and*
34 *transferred to the Bureau of Education.*

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That the Bureau of*
2 *Education is hereby vested with power and authority to co-*
3 *operate with any and all other educational organizations*
4 *throughout the United States and the Territories thereof, in*
5 *the establishment and maintenance of schools for the education*
6 *of all classes of persons, but without the power of control over*
7 *any State organizations with which it may co-operate.*

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted, That it shall be the*
2 *duty of the Bureau of Education to exercise the power and*
3 *authority conferred upon it by law, in accordance with rules*
4 *and regulations, to be framed by the Commissioner and to be*
5 *approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and by the Presi-*
6 *dent of the United States; and in extending the co-operation*

7 *herein authorized, as well as in exercising its power and au-*
8 *thority throughout the Territories of the United States and in*
9 *the District of Columbia, it shall endeavor to secure impar-*
10 *tial and universal education for all persons, and shall collect*
11 *and disseminate statistics and information which will promote*
12 *the adoption of the best systems of education in all the common*
13 *schools throughout the United States, and especially in the*
14 *Territories thereof: Provided, That the funds heretofore ap-*
15 *propriated exclusively for educational purposes among refu-*
16 *gees and freedmen only, shall be expended as far as practi-*
17 *cable for the benefit of said classes of persons.*

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted, That all associations*
2 *and organizations, voluntary or incorporated, State, territo-*
3 *rial, county, or municipal, heretofore or hereafter aided or*
4 *co-operated with by the Bureau of Education, shall make*
5 *reports to said bureau upon such subjects, and at such times,*
6 *and in such manner as shall be required by the Commissioner.*

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted, That in all cases*
2 *where grants of money or other property have heretofore been*
3 *made by the Freedmen's Bureau to any association or corpora-*
4 *tion, and such association or corporation shall divert or*
5 *attempt to divert the same from the uses for which such grants*
6 *were made, such grant shall thereupon become void and of no*
7 *effect, and the property thus sought to be diverted shall become*
8 *the property of the United States for the use of the Bureau*

9 *of Education; and in all such cases the Commissioner of*
10 *Education shall have power and authority to take possession*
11 *of all such property and apply the same to the purposes of*
12 *his bureau; and in case of refusal on the part of any persons*
13 *or corporations in whose possession such property may be, to*
14 *deliver up the same to said Commissioner on demand, said*
15 *Commissioner is hereby authorized to commence in the circuit*
16 *court of the United States in the district in which such prop-*
17 *erty may be situated, but in the name of the United States,*
18 *either at law or in equity as the circumstances of the case may*
19 *require, to recover the possession of said property or the value*
20 *thereof, and the circuit courts of the United States in their sev-*
21 *eral districts are hereby clothed with jurisdiction over such*
22 *property and such suits, to be exercised under the laws giving*
23 *original jurisdiction to such circuit courts, and in the manner*
24 *and form established by law.*

1 *SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Commis-*
2 *sioner of Education shall have power to collect all money due*
3 *to the Freedmen's Bureau, and to receive all property to*
4 *which the Freedmen's Bureau is now entitled, with the excep-*
5 *tion of that which is named in the first section of this act, for*
6 *the uses of the Bureau of Education.*

A BILL

To abolish the Freedmen's Bureau, and provide
for the Bureau of Education.

1870—JANUARY 21.—Read twice, referred to the Joint Select
Committee on Retrenchment, and ordered to be
printed.

FEBRUARY 21.—Reported with amendments.