

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 12, 1867.

Mr. MORRILL asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia.

FEBRUARY 13, 1867.

Reported by Mr. WILSON without amendment.

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**A BILL**

To regulate the disposition of an irregular fund in the custody of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Whereas the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands reports a retained bounty fund, derived from a portion of the State bounties of certain colored soldiers enlisted in Virginia and North Carolina, during the years eighteen hundred and sixty-four and eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and by virtue of General Order number ninety, department of Virginia and North Carolina, series of eighteen hundred and sixty-four, holden by the Superintendent of Freedmen's Affairs, but turned over to the said Freedmen's Bureau upon its organization; and whereas the said Commissioner has in possession the names of those soldiers from whom the said money was taken; and whereas he has uniformly returned the same upon the application or discovery of legal representatives, but retains a considerable portion thereof belonging to soldiers who are either deceased or who cannot be found; therefore,

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 said Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees,  
4 Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, or his successor in office,  
5 be, and he is hereby, constituted the lawful custodian of said  
6 retained bounty fund, and appointed trustee of the same for  
7 the benefit of said colored soldiers or their lawful representa-  
8 tives.

9       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said Com-  
10 missioner be, and he is hereby, specially authorized and  
11 empowered to invest the said fund, or any portion thereof,  
12 for the exclusive benefit of the said colored soldiers or their  
13 legal representatives: *Provided, however,* That a sufficient  
14 amount of the same in cash be retained uninvested to meet  
15 all lawful claims thereupon that will probably be presented for  
16 payment: *And provided further,* That any portion of the said  
17 fund which may remain unexpended when the said bureau  
18 shall cease to exist shall be accounted for by said Commis-  
19 sioner to the Treasury of the United States.



37TH CONGRESS, { S. 595.  
2D SESSION.

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