

[Printer's No., 388.]

40TH CONGRESS,  
2D SESSION.

# H. R. 1105.

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MAY 25, 1868.

Read twice, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. PHELPS, on leave, introduced the following bill:

## A BILL

For the reorganization of the United States colored troops, their instruction and colonization.

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 President be, and he is hereby authorized and  
4       empowered to disband and muster out of service the enlisted  
5       men of the several regiments of colored troops, and to make  
6       such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the reor-  
7       ganization of the same number of colored regiments of infan-  
8       try and cavalry, with like designations and with the terms  
9       and conditions hereinafter expressed, to wit:

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the periods of  
2       enlistment, pay, and emoluments of the members of the said  
3       reorganized regiments shall be the same as provided by law  
4       for the regiments of similar arm now in service, and the terms

5 of enlistment shall, in addition, include a contract binding  
6 each and every recruit to acquire citizenship in the republic  
7 of Liberia, Africa, subject to the laws thereof, for not less  
8 than one year from and after the date of his discharge, the  
9 United States engaging to provide transportation for said sol-  
10 diers, their wives, children, or other dependents, if required,  
11 and also to arrange with the authorities of Liberia and of the  
12 American Colonization Society, good and sufficient provision  
13 for the reception of said colonists, the United States reserving  
14 from the monthly pay of each of said enlisted men the sum  
15 of           dollars per month, to be paid as follows: one-half  
16 of the whole amount of said back pay upon arrival in Liberia,  
17 and the residue thereof at the expiration of twelve months  
18 bona fide residence therein.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That upon the dis-  
2 bandment of the colored regiments aforesaid, such officers of  
3 colored regiments as may not, in the judgment of a proper  
4 board or boards of officers, be deemed fully competent, both  
5 morally and mentally, to serve as instructors of the said  
6 colored soldiers enlisted under the provisions of this act in the  
7 common English branches of education, in addition to other  
8 military and professional qualifications, shall be mustered out  
9 of service, and the remainder of the officers of said regiments  
10 shall be detailed for recruiting until the reorganization, in  
11 whole or in part, of their respective regiments be effected;

12 and it shall be the duty of the commanding officers of said  
13 regiments, over and above the ordinary military exercises, to  
14 provide for the instruction of said soldiers, under the direction  
15 of the several chaplains, in a thorough course of elementary  
16 education.

1       SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That any of said  
2 colored soldiers shall have the option of emigrating in the  
3 manner and upon the terms aforesaid, with an honorable  
4 discharge, at any time after the expiration of one year from  
5 the date of his enlistment.

1       SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That any enlistment  
2 which shall be effected by fraudulent misrepresentation or  
3 concealment of the provisions of this act, shall be void and of  
4 no effect, and the officer so making the same shall forfeit the  
5 amount of clothing, rations, and pay which the person so  
6 recruited may receive from the government, to be deducted  
7 from the pay account of such officer.

---

---

# A BILL

For the reorganization of the United States colored troops, their instruction, and colonization.

---

---

MAY 25, 1868.—Read twice, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.