

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 10, 1865.—Read first and second times, made special order after existing special order, and ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. GOODE, from Special Committee on Conscription.]

A BILL

To be entitled An Act to regulate the business of Conscription.

1 *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,*
2 That, for the purpose of conducting the business of conscrip-
3 tion, there shall be assigned to each State by the President a
4 General officer, who shall report to the Secretary of War
5 through an Assistant Adjutant General, to be assigned in the
6 office of the Adjutant and Inspector General, to the duty of re-
7 ceiving returns and reports and issuing all orders in relation
8 to conscription.

1 SEC. 2. All applications for exemption and detail, except as
2 hereinafter provided, shall be decided by the General officers
3 having charge of the business of conscription in the several
4 States. Appeals may be taken from their decisions to the Sec-
5 retary of War, but during the pendency of such appeals, the
6 appellants shall be liable to military service.

1 SEC. 3. There shall be assigned from the Invalid Corps or from
2 officers certified by the proper medical boards to be unfit for
3 active service in the field, a sufficient number of enrolling offi-
4 cers who shall report to and be under the immediate direction

5 and control of the General officers conducting the business of
6 conscription in the several States.

1 SEC. 4. All conscripts shall be examined by the medical boards
2 of the army after joining the commands in the field to which
3 they may be respectively assigned, and every discharge granted
4 by an army medical board, shall be final and shall relieve the
5 party from all military service in the future, when the disability
6 is permanent and the cause of it is set forth in the certificate
7 of discharge.

1 SEC. 5. If any conscript shall furnish to the enrolling officer
2 of his county a certificate, under oath, from a respectable physi-
3 cian or from an army surgeon, that he is unable to travel to
4 the command to which he may be assigned without serious
5 prejudice to his health, a furlough shall be granted to him un-
6 til the next meeting of the medical board, hereinafter provi-
7 ded for.

1 SEC. 6. There shall be assigned to each congressional district
2 a medical board, consisting of three army surgeons who, after
3 due notice of the time and place of their meeting, shall visit
4 each county of the district at least once in two months, and shall
5 examine, for discharge or recommendation for light duty, all
6 conscripts who have been furloughed under the provisions of
7 the preceding section. Every discharge granted by the said
8 medical board shall be final and shall relieve the party from
9 all military service in the future, when the disability is perma-
10 nent and the cause of it is set forth in the certificate.

1 SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of all officers and others employ-
2 ed in the military service of the Confederate States and not

3 actually in the field nor attached to any army in the field, inclu-
4 ding quartermasters and commissaries, commanders of posts,
5 provost marshals, officers of the ordnance, nitre and mining
6 and medical bureaus, and others, to make certified monthly re-
7 turns to the nearest conscript officer, of the names, ages and
8 physical condition of all persons employed in their service,
9 which returns shall be forwarded to the General officer con-
10 trolling conscription in the State.

1 SEC. 8. For the enforcement of the duties imposed by this
2 Act upon the General officers controlling conscription in the
3 several States, such detachments of the reserve forces as they
4 may deem necessary, shall be placed at their disposal.

1 SEC. 9. In order to insure the production of grain and pro-
2 visions necessary for the use of the army and the families of
3 soldiers, such overseers, farmers or planters as were not enroll-
4 ed in the military service on the 17th day of February, 1864,
5 and who will be more useful to the country in the pursuits of
6 agriculture than in the military service, shall be detailed upon
7 terms to be prescribed by the Secretary of War under the di-
8 rections of the President. And in order to ascertain what per-
9 sons should be detailed under this Act, for the purposes afore-
10 said, there shall be appointed by the President in each county,
11 district or parish, an agricultural board, consisting of three
12 farmers or planters over the age of forty five years, to whom
13 shall be addressed every application for the detail of ver-
14 seer, farmer or planter in their respective counties, districts or
15 parishes and whose duty it shall be to enquire and report upon
16 the merits of such application. And if a majority of said

17 board shall approve the same, they shall forward it together
 18 with the reasons for their approval, to the General officer con-
 19 trolling conscription in the State, and if he approve such appli-
 20 cation, the detail shall be allowed. If the General officer of
 21 conscription shall disapprove such application, the applicant
 22 shall have the right of appeal to the Secretary of War, and if
 23 the said board shall disapprove such application, their decision
 24 shall be final and no right of appeal shall exist.

1 SEC. 10. The bureau of conscription, the camps of instruction
 2 and the office of commandant of conscripts, are hereby abolish-
 3 ed and all rules and regulations of the War Department incon-
 4 sistent with this Act, are hereby repealed.