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Feb. 10, 1865

[HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, No. 367.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 10, 1865.—Read first and second times, referred to a select committee of one from each State, and ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. BARKSDALE.

A BILL

To be entitled **An Act to increase the military force of the Confederate States.**

1 *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,*
2 That in order to provide additional forces to repel invasion,
3 maintain the rightful possession of the Confederate States, se-
4 cure their independence and preserve their institutions, the Pre-
5 sident be and he is hereby authorized to ask for and accept from
6 the owners of slaves the services of such number of able-bodied
7 negro men as he may deem expedient, for and during the war,
8 to perform military service in whatever capacity the General-in-
9 Chief may direct.

1 SEC. 2. That the President be authorized to organize the said
2 slaves into companies, battalions, regiments and brigades, under
3 such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may pre-
4 scribe, and to be commanded by such officers as the President
5 may appoint.

1 SEC. 3. That while employed in the service the said slaves shall
2 receive the same rations, clothing and compensation as are allow-

3 ed in the Act approved February 17th, 1864, and the Acts amen-
4 datory thereto, "to increase the efficiency of the army by the
5 employment of free negroes and slaves in certain capacities,"
6 and the compensation so allowed shall be made to the owner or
7 to the slave as the owner thereof may elect.

1 SEC. 4. That nothing in this Act shall be construed to author-
2 ize a change in the relation which the said slaves shall bear to-
3 wards their owners as property, except by consent of the States
4 in which they may reside, and in pursuance of the laws thereof.

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