



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 8, 1864.—Read first and second times, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. ATKINS.]

## A BILL

To be entitled An Act to increase the effective force of the "Provisional Army of the Confederate States"

1 SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America*  
2 *do enact*, Hereafter it shall not be lawful for the President,  
3 Secretary of War or any officer of the Government, to detail any  
4 able-bodied man, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five  
5 years, to any employment whatever, in the service of any provost  
6 marshal, commandant of a post or as a guard upon any rail-  
7 road, except to guard Federal and Confederate prisoners or in the  
8 collection of tythes and army supplies of any kind, either in the  
9 commissary or quartermaster departments, or in hospitals, or in  
10 the nitre and mining bureau, and all details, heretofore granted,  
11 for any such purpose is hereby revoked: *Provided*, That this act  
12 shall not be so construed as to preclude the appointment of com-  
13 missioned officers to superintend any such service.

1        SEC. 2. It shall be lawful, and it is hereby made the duty of  
2 the Secretary of War, to employ for all such service, men unfit  
3 by reason of corporeal disability for military duty in the field ;  
4 and if a sufficient number of that class, cannot be obtained, he  
5 shall have power to enroll and enlist, under laws already made,  
6 and provided, such number of men without families, over the age  
7 of forty-five and under that of sixty years, for such length of  
8 time as he may think proper, not to exceed three years or during  
9 the war ; and such men when thus enrolled and enlisted and placed  
10 on duty, shall be entitled to the same pay and allowances, rights  
11 and privileges of soldiers in the field of the infantry arm.

1        SEC. 3. Any officer or other person, authorized to raise a  
2 company, battalion, squadron or regiment, shall, upon penalty  
3 of being reduced to the ranks, report to the officer commanding the  
4 department within three months from the time his leave of ab-  
5 sence is granted to go on such duty ; except that the officer or  
6 person authorized to raise a battalion, squadron or regiment,  
7 shall be allowed four months time, to complete such organization.  
8 All persons authorized to raised companies, before the 1st day of  
9 December, 1863, shall report to the general commanding the  
10 department, by the 13th day of February, next ; and any such  
11 officer or person failing to show his muster rolls, and have the  
12 men in camp, shall be amenable to the penalty prescribed in the  
13 foregoing part of this section.

1     SEC. 4. All persons purporting to be upon the staff of any  
2     general or field officer, or in their special service, and who has  
3     not a commission setting forth their rank, shall immediately re-  
4     port to the officer commanding the department, and take their  
5     places in the ranks as other soldiers, the privilege being allowed  
6     them to select their arm of service. And all persons without  
7     commissions, engaged in enrolling and enlisting soldiers and cap-  
8     turing and returning stragglers and deserters, shall forthwith,  
9     repair to the army; and hereafter, their places shall be filled by  
10    soldiers disabled for field duty and by men over the age of forty-  
11    five and under that of sixty years; to be enrolled and enlisted under  
12    the provisions and restrictions of the second section of this act:  
13    *Provided,* The chief of the conscription bureau, may find it  
14    practicable to employ, at stipulated prices, such men, he may do  
15    so; and may extend the age of those thus employed to any num-  
16    ber of years.

1     SEC. 5. No indulgence or exemption from military duty, ex-  
2     cept by the autograph of the chief of the bureau, shall hereafter  
3     be granted; and all exemptions heretofore granted, except as  
4     herein provided, are hereby revoked.

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