Calendar No. 1300

68TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1226

TO AUTHORIZE THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF ANY ACTING CHAPLAIN IN THE NAVY TO THE TEMPORARY GRADE AND RANK IN THE NAVY HELD BY HIM DURING THE WORLD WAR

FEBRUARY 26, 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ODDIE, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 11921]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11921) authorizing the permanent appointment of any acting chaplain in the Navy to the temporary grade and rank in the Navy held by him during the World War, having had the same under consideration, report favorably thereon and recommend that the bill do pass.

This bill was introduced in the interest of Acting Chaplain Albert E. Stone, United States Navy, and is applicable to no other case.

Chaplain A. E. Stone was appointed acting chaplain, with the rank of junior lieutenant, February 7, 1918. He was given a temporary appointment as lieutenant November 2, 1920. May 17, 1921, he was examined for the permanent rank of lieutenant but found not qualified. He was ordered to the naval hospital at Mare Island for observation, but a thorough examination revealed nothing which would indicate his unfitness for the service. Unofficial medical examinations at that time and more recently have indicated that he would have no difficulty in passing the examination for a permanent appointment.

It is recommended that Chaplain Stone, at the end of six months, be directed to appear before a medical examining board. However, on September 2, 1921, he reverted from the grade of lieutenant (temporary) to the grade of acting chaplain, with the rank of lieutenant (junior grade), in accordance with the act of Congress May 23, 1917, which provided that temporary appointments should be effective for a period of not later than six months after termination of the

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World War. In the meantime he had reached the age of 35 (August 10, 1921), which is the age limit established by law for appointment of chaplains (permanent appointment).

During the time that Chaplain Stone was under observation at the naval hospital, Mare Island, he continued his regular duties with the permission of the medical authorities. He has never had sick leave. As the result of circumstances over which he had no control, Chaplain Stone is till an acting chaplain after seven years of faithful service. The operation of the law pertaining to the appointment of chaplains is such that Chaplain Stone can not be given a permanent appointment or become eligible for promotion except by special act of Congress.

Chaplain Stone is an excellent officer and is devoted to the service, and it is earnestly desired to retain him for the Navy, if possible. It can not be expected that he will long remain in the Navy under present conditions, and his place would necessarily be filled by a man of no experience.

The bill meets with the approval of the Navy Department, as shown by the following letter from the Secretary of the Navy addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives, and is hereby made a part of this report:

26255–810: 1–3 L.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 5, 1925.

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Replying to the committee's letter of January 26, 1925, inclosing a bill (H. R. 11921) to authorize the permanent appointment of any acting chaplain in the Navy to the temporary grade and rank in the Navy held by him during the World War, and requesting the views and recommendations of this department thereon, I have the honor to inform you as follows:

This proposed legislation was introduced in the interest of Acting Chaplain Albert E. Stone, United States Navy, and is applicable to no other case.

Chaplain Stone was appointed an acting chaplain in the Navy on February 7, 1918, and has served continuously as an officer in the Corps of Chaplains since that date. He was temporarily appointed a chaplain with the rank of lieutenant on November 2, 1920, and while serving under such appointment underwent a physical examination to determine his qualifications for permanent appointment as a chaplain with the rank of lieutenant, in accordance with the provisions of the act of June 4, 1920. He failed to qualify on this examination and was ordered to the naval hospital, Mare Island, Calif., for treatment, but a thorough examination revealed nothing which would indicate his unfitness for the service, and subsequent physical examinations have indicated that he would have no difficulty in qualifying on further examination for the appointment in question.

Prior to any reexamination, Acting Chaplain Stone's temporary appointment as a chaplain, with the rank of lieutenant, terminated by operation of law on September 2, 1921, when he reverted to his permanent status as an acting chaplain with the rank of lieutenant (junior grade). On August 10, 1921, Acting Chaplain Stone passed the age limit for permanent appointment to the grade of chaplain under the act of June 30, 1914, and for that reason is now ineligible for appointment as a chaplain.

In view of the foregoing, the department recommends that the bill H. R. 11921 be enacted.

Sincerely yours,

CURTIS D. WILBUR,
Secretary of the Navy.

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