

Calendar No. 794

69TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 783

INCREASING NUMBER OF CADETS AND MIDSHIPMEN AT THE MILITARY AND NAVAL ACADEMIES

MAY 6 (calendar day, MAY 8), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

MR. WADSWORTH, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3712]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 3712) to increase the number of cadets and midshipmen at the United States Military and Naval Academies, respectively, having considered the same, reports thereon favorably with the recommendation that it pass.

Your committee was unanimously in favor of the passage of this bill. The War Department has made a study of the measure and believes the legislation desirable although a favorable report can not be made because of the attitude of the Bureau of the Budget. The letter from the Secretary of War is made a part of this report as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, April 28, 1926.

HON. JAMES W. WADSWORTH,
*Chairman Committee on Military Affairs,
United States Senate.*

DEAR SENATOR WADSWORTH: In further compliance with your request of March 30, I am pleased to submit the following report on S. 3712:

The subject of the proposed legislation, in so far as it relates to the activities of the War Department, is to provide for an increase of 40 in the number of cadetships at the United States Military Academy, to be allotted to the United States at large, the appointments to be restricted to the sons of officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps of the United States who were killed in action or died prior to July 2, 1921, of wounds or injuries received, or disease contracted in line of duty during the World War.

Existing law provides for a maximum authorization at the Military Academy of 1,334 cadets, distributed as follows:

4 from each State at large.....	192
2 from each Congressional district.....	870
2 from each Territory.....	4
4 from the District of Columbia.....	4
2 from natives of Porto Rico.....	2
82 from the United States at large.....	82
180 from among the enlisted men of the Regular Army and of the National Guard, in number as nearly equal as practicable.....	180
Total.....	1,334

Of the 82 cadetships from the United States at large, only 60 are filled upon the direct selection of the President, the result being that the number of applicants eligible under the close restrictions imposed by the President always greatly exceeds the number of cadetships available.

The bill under consideration proposes to increase this quota by 40 and restricts the appointments to sons of deceased veterans of the World War, a class for which no adequate provision now exists. The benefits at present conferred upon World War veterans and their dependents compensate but in small measure the sacrifices which were made. The Superintendent of the Military Academy was requested to express his views in connection with the proposed bill, and is favorable to its passage.

No data are available from which an estimate can be made as to the probable number of applicants for these cadetships, and consequently it is impracticable to estimate with any degree of accuracy the probable cost involved. This being the case, I have, in considering the expense to be involved, assumed that these cadetships will all be filled within four years after the passage of the act, allowing for the admission of 10 cadets annually. The pay and allowances of a cadet amount to \$1,072 annually, and the average cost of transportation, as evidenced by an examination of the current appropriation bill, is \$27.56. In as much as the entrance examination for admission on July 1, 1926, has already been held, the bill can not be put into effect prior to 1927, so that no increase whatever will be necessary in the appropriations for the fiscal year 1927. The maximum additional expense if all vacancies are filled, based on the admission of 10 new cadets each year, will be as follows:

1928.....	\$10,995.60
1929.....	21,991.20
1930.....	32,986.80
1931.....	43,982.40

The maximum age for admission to the Military Academy being 22 years, this act will of necessity become inoperative 22 years subsequently to 1921, the date mentioned in the act, viz, 1943, so it will have but 17 years to run, after which admissions thereunder will cease. Accordingly, the total expense involved will not be large. The superintendent of the academy, in commenting upon this phase of the situation, expresses the opinion that if the cadets authorized by this measure are admitted in reasonable annual increments the academy can absorb them with no increase in overhead expense.

If any additional information from the War Department is desired, I shall be pleased to furnish it.

Aside from the financial considerations involved, the War Department would view this proposed legislation with favor, but since the Director of the Bureau of the Budget has been consulted and has advised that the bill is in conflict with the financial program of the President, I do not, at this time, recommend favorable consideration.

Sincerely yours,

HANFORD MACNIDER,
Acting Secretary of War.