

Calendar No. 900

69TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 894

TRANSPORTATION OF BLIND PERSONS BY COMMON CARRIERS

MAY 21, 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr COUZENS, from the Committee on Interstate Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2615]

The Committee on Interstate Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2615) authorizing common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to transport any blind person accompanied by a guide for one fare, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu of that stricken out the following:

That paragraph (1) of section 22 of the Interstate commerce act, as amended, is amended by striking out the colon immediately preceding the first proviso of such paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon and the following: "nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit any common carrier from carrying any totally blind person accompanied by a guide at the usual and ordinary fare charged to one person, under such reasonable regulations as may have been established by the carrier."

The bill (S. 2615) was submitted to the Interstate Commerce Commission for a report and the report of the commission is attached. The bill permits common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to carry any blind person who is accompanied by a guide for one fare.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION,
Washington, April 23, 1926.

HON. JAMES COUZENS,
*Chairman Subcommittee of the Committee on Interstate Commerce,
United States Senate.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: Your request of April 23, addressed to the chairman, has been referred to me as chairman of the commission's legislative committee for the preparation of a report on S. 2615, introduced by Senator Wadsworth, "To

authorize common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to transport any blind person accompanied by a guide for one fare." The legislative committee has given careful consideration to this bill and I am authorized to submit the following:

In the first session of the Sixty-eighth Congress, Senator Schall, then a Member of the House, introduced H. R. 8151, "To provide for the transportation of blind persons with their guide for one fare." We were requested to make a report on this bill by the chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and under date of May 28, 1924, we submitted a report, a copy of which is hereto attached for ready reference.

It will be noted that in H. R. 8151 it was proposed to amend section 2 of the interstate commerce act. This is the rebate section. In the attached report we suggested that the amendment would be more appropriate if made to section 22 instead of section 2. S. 2615, introduced by Senator Wadsworth, amends paragraph (1) of section 22. As stated in our report on the House bill, we were of the opinion that the proposed amendment might appropriately be inserted in paragraph (1) of section 22 just preceding the first proviso. We still believe that this would be a more logical place for the amendment than to insert it where it is now inserted in lines 4 to 7, inclusive, on page 2.

In our report on the House bill we indicated that the word "carrying" might be preferable to the word "transporting" as used in line 5, on page 2, and also that the word "person" be substituted for the word "passenger" in line 7, page 2. We believe that it would be desirable if the words "under such reasonable regulations as may have been established by the carrier"; as recommended in the draft of the amendment contained in our report on the House bill be inserted after the word "passenger" in line 7, page 2.

It seems desirable that where the statute is reenacted the same spelling and typographical features should be retained. For this reason we would recommend that the words "national homes" and the words "homes" and "disabled" in line 10, page 2, and the words "volunteer soldiers" and "soldiers," and "sailors' orphan homes" in line 11, page 2, begin with capitals. It is also suggested that the figures "6" in lines 12, 13, and 18, on page 3, and the figure "10" in line 2, page 4, be written out.

Under date of February 1, 1926, Senator Schall introduced S. 3005, which is identical with H. R. 8151 which he introduced in the first session of the Sixty-eighth Congress, while a Member of the House. The attached report on H. R. 8151 would therefore express the views of the legislative committee on S. 3005.

It is further suggested that the title to S. 2615 be amended to read:

"To amend section 22 of the interstate commerce act by providing for the transportation of any blind person accompanied by a guide for one fare."

As stated in our report on H. R. 8151, the intent of S. 2615, as we understand it, is permissive only, and at this time we do not have sufficient information at hand to enable us to express any view as to the policy of granting such permission.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN J. ESCH
(For Legislative Committee).



The bill (S. 2615) was submitted to the Interstate Commerce Commission for a report and the report of the commission is attached. The bill permits common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to carry any blind person who is accompanied by a guide for one fare.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION
Washington, D. C.
Hon. John J. Esch,
Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
U. S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.
My dear Senator: Your report of April 28, addressed to the chairman of the committee, is hereby acknowledged. The preparation of a report on S. 2615, introduced by Senator Wadsworth, is