
DISPOSITION OF MONEYS OF LEGALLY ADJUDGED
INSANE OF ALASKA

MARCH 19, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. DRIVER, from the Committee on the Territories, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3213]

The Committee on the Territories, to whom was referred Senate bill 3213, after consideration, unanimously voted, authorized, and favorably reported and recommended that the bill do pass.

This bill provides the necessary authority for disposition of moneys accumulated and accumulating with the contracting agency for the care of the insane of Alaska, which at this time amounts to the sum of approximately \$11,300, of which \$3,995 was left by patients discharged or escaped from the institution and whose present whereabouts or the names of the persons who may be entitled to the same are unknown, and which money is held under a bond by such institution, which is desirous of acquitting itself from responsibility secured under required bond.

The contractee is a sanatorium of Portland, Oreg., and has charge of the legally adjudged insane of Alaska under authority of an act of Congress approved February 6, 1909 (35 Stat. 601), which is similar in terms to the law relating to the administration of St. Elizabeths Hospital in the District of Columbia, and this bill follows in the language of the provision relative to disposition of moneys accruing to the District of Columbia institution in like cases.

The bill is recommended by the Secretary of the Interior, under whose authority the administration of the act referred to is committed, was introduced in the Senate and passed by that body, and is reported for favorable action to the House.

Attached herewith is a copy of the report of the Secretary of the Interior regarding this bill.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 16, 1926.

Hon. CHARLES F. CURRY,
Chairman Committee on the Territories,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. CURRY: Section 7 of the act entitled "An act relating to affairs in the Territories," approved February 6, 1909 (35 Stat. 601), states:

"That the Secretary of the Interior shall hereafter, as in his judgment may be deemed advisable, advertise for and receive bids for the care and custody of persons legally adjudged insane in the District of Alaska, and in behalf of the United States shall contract, for one or more years, as he may deem best, with a responsible asylum or sanitarium west of the main range of the Rocky Mountains submitting the lowest and best responsible bid for the care and custody of persons legally adjudged insane in the said District of Alaska, the cost of advertising for bids, executing the contract, and caring for the insane to be paid from appropriations to be made for such service upon estimates to be submitted to Congress annually."

Under this authority contract was entered into on January 25, 1919, with the Sanitarium Co. of Portland, Oreg., for the care of the legally adjudged insane of Alaska for a period of five years from and including January 16, 1920; and on December 14, 1923, a new contract was entered into with the Sanitarium Co. for the care of the Alaska insane for the period of five years from and including January 16, 1925.

There has been accumulated in the hands of the contractor for the care of the Alaska insane approximately \$11,300, the property of patients, for the safeguarding of which a special bond is given by the contractor; a considerable portion of this money, approximately \$3,995, belongs to the estates of deceased patients, patients who have been discharged or who have eloped, and whose present whereabouts is unknown.

It is desirable that some provision be made by Congress for the disposition of such moneys so that the contractor and the department may be relieved of responsibility therefor.

A tentative bill has been framed and a copy is herewith inclosed providing for the disposition of moneys of legally adjudged insane of Alaska who have been cared for by the Secretary of the Interior. This bill has been drawn along the lines of existing law, the act of June 30, 1906 (34 Stat. 730), relating to St. Elizabeths Hospital which, in the administration of the affairs of that hospital, has been found to be very effective. I commend the same to your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

A BILL To provide for the disposition of moneys of the legally-adjudged insane of Alaska who have been cared for by the Secretary of the Interior

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter all moneys belonging to persons legally adjudged insane in the Territory of Alaska and deposited by them with the person, firm, corporation, or institution under contract with the Department of the Interior for the care of the Alaska insane who have died in such institution, been discharged therefrom, or who have eloped and whose whereabouts is unknown, shall, if unclaimed by said person or their legal heirs within the period of five years from the time of death of the person or the date of the leaving of the institution, be covered into the Treasury by the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided, however,* That the unclaimed moneys belonging to those who have heretofore died or left the institution prior to the date of this act shall also be deposited in the Treasury subject, however, to reclamation by such persons or their legal heirs within five years from the date of this act.

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed under such regulations as he may prescribe, to make, or cause diligent inquiry to be made, in every instance after the death, discharge, or elopement of any legally adjudged insane person of Alaska, to ascertain his whereabouts, or that of his or her legal heirs, and thereafter turn over to the proper party any moneys in the hands of the institution, etc., to the credit of such person. Claims may be presented to the Secretary of the Interior hereunder at any time, and when established by competent proof in any case more than five years after the death, discharge, or elopement of such legally adjudged insane person of Alaska, shall be certified to Congress for consideration.