

RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF QUARANTINE  
STATIONS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

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MARCH 30, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the  
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. ELLIOTT, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 10782]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 10782) relating to the purchase of quarantine stations from the State of Texas, having duly considered the same, hereby make report of it to the House and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

This bill has the approval of the Treasury Department. The report of the Acting Secretary of the Treasury on H. R. 10782, which fully explains the necessity for its enactment into law, is as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, March 30, 1926.

HON. RICHARD N. ELLIOTT,  
Chairman Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. ELLIOTT: In compliance with the request contained in your letter of March 29 asking this department for recommendations in connection with H. R. 10782, "relating to the purchase of quarantine stations from the State of Texas," I have the honor to advise your committee as follows:

The sundry civil appropriation act, approved June 5, 1920, appropriated funds for the purchase of the Texas quarantine stations for operation by the Federal Government, based on a joint appraisal report made by representatives of the United States Government and the State of Texas, as to the value of such land, buildings, and equipment, constituting the stations in question. It subsequently developed, however, that the State of Texas was unable to convey to the United States Government all of the properties involved, in view of certain vital defects in the title to the land on which they were situated, and the Comptroller General of the United States, under date of August 14, 1924, decided that the appropriation act was not available for the purchase of these stations piecemeal, but was intended to embrace the purchase of the stations as an entire system, and that therefore the funds were not available for any one, but a purchase of all, of the stations.

The State of Texas is unable to give title to some of the land included in the original appraisal report because the same is not owned by the State of Texas, and it is impossible, or inadvisable, to secure title for transference to the United States Government, and it is therefore deemed advisable that the attached legislation be enacted into law in order to obviate the necessity of purchasing the quarantine stations as a complete system and enabling the Federal Government to purchase those to which good title can be given by the State of Texas, making appropriate deduction from the appraisal report on account of such properties which can not be deeded to the Federal Government.

Inability to complete this purchase has greatly embarrassed the administration of the Texas quarantine stations; for example, at Sabine the building occupied by the medical officer is dilapidated, leaking, practically uninhabitable, and will soon have to be abandoned. The State of Texas will not repair this building and the Supervising Architect can not because the property does not belong to the United States. A similar condition obtains at several of the other stations.

It is not necessary to the efficient administration of the quarantine stations in Texas that all of the stations be transferred to the Federal Government, it being sufficient for quarantine purposes if those to which the State of Texas can give good title are now paid for in accordance with the appropriations above referred to.

For the above reasons it is recommended that H. R. 10782 be enacted into law.

In this connection, it is desired to state that the passage of this legislation will not be in conflict with the financial policy of the President.

Respectfully,

GARRARD B. WINSTON,  
Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

REPORT

To accompany H. R. 10782

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds referred the bill (H. R. 10782) relating to the purchase of quarantine stations from the State of Texas, having duly considered the same, hereby make report of it to the House and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

This bill has the approval of the Treasury Department. The report of the Acting Secretary of the Treasury on H. R. 10782, which fully explains the necessity for its enactment into law, is as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, March 30, 1902.

HON. RICHARD N. ELLIOTT,

Chairman, Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. ELLIOTT: In compliance with the request contained in your letter of March 29 asking this department for recommendations in connection with H. R. 10782, relating to the purchase of quarantine stations from the State of Texas, I have the honor to advise your committee as follows:

The sundry civil appropriation act approved June 5, 1900 appropriated funds for the purchase of the Texas quarantine stations for operation by the Federal Government, based on a joint appraisal report made by representatives of the United States Government and the State of Texas, as to the value of such buildings and equipment, constituting the stations in question. It is apparent, however, that the State of Texas was unable to convey to the United States Government all of the properties involved in view of certain vital defects in the title to the land on which they were situated, and the Comptroller General of the United States, under date of August 14, 1901, advised that the appraisals set was not available for the purchase of these stations, because, but was intended to purchase the buildings of the stations, in a complete system, and that the funds were not available for any one, but a purchase of all of the

stations.