

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES:

FEBRUARY 5, 1863.

**Mr. GRIMES** asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia, and ordered to be printed.

# A BILL

To incorporate the National Association for the relief of colored women and children.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That \_\_\_\_\_, and  
4 their associates and successors, being members of said society,  
5 by paying into its treasury the sum of two dollars annually,  
6 or life members, by paying fifty dollars at one time, are  
7 hereby incorporated and made a body politic by the name  
8 of "The National Association for the Relief of Aged  
9 Colored Women and Children," for the purpose of supporting  
10 such aged or indigent colored women and children as may  
11 properly come under the charge of such association; to pro-  
12 vide for them a suitable home, board, clothing, and instruc-  
13 tion, and to bring them under Christian influence; and by

14 that name shall have perpetual succession, with power to  
15 use a common seal, to sue and be sued, to plead and be im-  
16 pleaded, in any court of the United States; to collect sub-  
17 scriptions, make by-laws, rules, and regulations needful for  
18 the government of said corporation, not inconsistent with the  
19 laws of the United States; to have, hold, and receive real  
20 and personal estate by purchase, gift, or devise; to use, sell,  
21 or convey the same for the purposes and benefit of said cor-  
22 poration, and to choose such officers and teachers as may be  
23 deemed necessary, prescribe their duties, and fix the rate of  
24 their compensation.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the officers of  
2 said association shall consist of a president, vice-president,  
3 secretary, treasurer, and a board of managers to be composed  
4 of nine members, the whole to constitute an executive com-  
5 mittee whose duty it shall be to carry into effect the plans  
6 and purposes for which said association was formed, all of  
7 which officers shall be elected on the fifteenth day of March  
8 next, and hold their offices till the second Tuesday of Janu-  
9 ary, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, on which day, and  
10 annually on the second Tuesday of January in each succeed-  
11 ing year, at the annual meeting of said association, which  
12 shall be held on said day, their successors shall be elected and  
13 hold their offices for the term of one year, and until their  
14 successors shall be duly elected. And in case of a vacancy

15 it shall be filled by the other members of the executive com-  
16 mittee.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That said society  
2 may receive into a house or building to be provided by it  
3 any child or children at the request of the parents or guar-  
4 dians, or next friend, or the mother, if the father be dead, or  
5 has abandoned his family, or does not provide for their support,  
6 or is an habitual drunkard, such parents, guardians, or next  
7 friend, or mother, making a written surrender of such child  
8 or children. The superintendent or other officer in immediate  
9 charge may, with the concurrence of the executive commit-  
10 tee, or of a board of trustees to be appointed by said com-  
11 mittee, and to consist of three persons, citizens of Washington  
12 city, govern the inmates, preserve order, enforce discipline,  
13 impart instruction in useful knowledge and some regular course  
14 of labor, and establish rules for the preservation of health,  
15 and for their proper physical, intellectual, and moral improve-  
16 ment. The trustees may, with the consent of the executive  
17 committee, bind out by indenture such children as may be  
18 deemed capable of learning trades or of becoming useful in  
19 other occupations to such persons as will give them the benefit  
20 of good examples, wholesome instruction, and other means  
21 of improvement in virtue and knowledge, and the opportu-  
22 nity of becoming intelligent, moral, and useful members of  
23 society.

1        SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissary  
2 of subsistence in charge of subsistence stores in Washington  
3 city is hereby authorized and required to issue to each person  
4 one army ration per day, to be continued for one year from  
5 the time when such person becomes an inmate of the institu-  
6 tion herein provided for. And it shall be lawful for said  
7 association, by and with the advice and consent of the Secre-  
8 tary of War, to occupy for the objects of said association  
9 any lands, not exceeding one hundred acres, and the improve-  
10 ments thereon, which the government may now own or may  
11 hereafter acquire, contiguous to the city of Washington, by  
12 confiscation or purchase, such occupation to continue for such  
13 a number of years as the Secretary of War may, in writing,  
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