

A BILL To authorize the Commissioner of the District of Columbia to utilize volunteers for active police duty

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the Commissioner of the District of Columbia (hereinafter, "Commissioner") is authorized to select, organize, train, and equip as reserve police officers (hereinafter, "reserve officers") individuals who may volunteer for duty in connection with the policing of the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That the Commissioner shall, with respect to the selection of such reserve officers, establish such standards relating to personal character and physical and mental health, as will best insure the proper performance of their duties: *Provided further*, That such reserve officers shall be given such training in the use of firearms as the Commissioner deems appropriate to the performance of the duties to which they will be assigned. Reserve officers shall have such of the powers, and perform such of the duties of regular officers and members of the Metropolitan Police force of the District, as the Commissioner may vest in and impose upon them. Reserve officers shall serve without compensation, but otherwise shall be considered employees of the Government of the District of Columbia and members of the Metropolitan Police force for all purposes and under all provisions of law except those relating to retirement, insurance, health benefits, veterans' preference, or any other law under which benefits are made available only to compensated employees of such Government, unless otherwise provided in this Act or in regulations adopted pursuant to this Act. The provisions of the Act approved July 7, 1898 (30 Stat. 666; D.C. Code, sec. 1-215) or of any other law prohibiting the acceptance by the District of Columbia of volunteer services shall not apply to the acceptance of volunteer services of reserve police officers pursuant to this Act.

(b) The Commissioner is further authorized to make rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this Act, including, without limitation, (1) provisions for suspension or dismissal of reserve officers, with or without trial, and (2) provisions prohibiting, permitting, regulating, and controlling the possession, carrying, and use of reserve officers of weapons (including firearms).

SEC. 2. (a) Reserve officers serving under the authority of this Act shall be deemed to be employees of the District of Columbia for the purposes of eligibility under subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (relating to compensation for work injuries), and any subsequent amendment thereto. Said subchapter shall apply and be administered by the Secretary of Labor in the same manner and to the same extent as if such reserve officer were a civil employee of the District of Columbia injured while in the performance of his duty: *Provided*, That for purposes of benefit computation under said subchapter, regardless of pay or status, such reserve officer shall be deemed to have had a monthly pay as one-twelfth of the current annual rate of basic compensation for a police private, class 1, subclass (a), in the Metropolitan Police force who had been employed for the same length of time that the reserve officer had been selected as a member of the reserve force.

(b) For the purposes of section 8116(c) of title 5, United States Code, in determining the rights of all employees of the District of Columbia, including reserve officers under this Act, the term "United States" shall be deemed to include the District of Columbia.

SEC. 3. The Commissioner is authorized to delegate any function vested in him by this Act.

SEC. 4. Appropriations are hereby authorized to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Mr. WHITENER. We have gone into this matter in the past. We had opposition expressed from the official circles of the government to members of the reserve police organization carrying firearms. It was the consensus of opinion of the Subcommittee at that time that these men should not be put on the streets on police duty without firearms because it would not be consistent with what many felt. We further felt that it would not be proper to ask these men to come without compensation and work as police officers without being full-fledged police officers while they were on duty.

I notice the Commissioner, in his letter to the Speaker, lists several things that these reserve officers will not be called upon to do. One of those is that they will not be assigned to riot duty. I think this might