

MILITARY EDUCATION IN CIVIL INSTITUTIONS OF  
LEARNING.

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MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR, SUBMITTING  
DRAFT OF A BILL TO PROMOTE MILITARY EDUCATION IN CIVIL  
INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING IN THE UNITED STATES.

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DECEMBER 14, 1908.—Read; referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and  
ordered to be printed.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I transmit herewith a communication from the Secretary of War submitting draft of a bill to promote military education in civil institutions of learning in the United States. I approve the recommendation of the Secretary of War and ask for its favorable consideration by the Congress.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *December 14, 1908.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, December 10, 1908.*

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Congress the draft of a bill to promote military education in civil institutions of learning in the United States and to urge the favorable consideration of this measure by Congress.

Under existing law, section 1225, Revised Statutes, there are at present detailed to a number of educational institutions throughout the United States 90 officers of the army. The annual inspection of the military departments of these institutions in April and May, 1908, showed an enrollment of nearly 22,000 students, of which num-

ber 19,592 were present in uniform and under arms at inspection. The main object of the military instruction furnished is to qualify the students who pursue the military course to become officers of volunteers or militia, and in order that proper instruction for field duty may be given it is necessary that facilities be provided for short practice marches and annual camps of instruction. Under the present law the Secretary of War is empowered to issue ordnance and ordnance stores to such schools and colleges, but the field training in question requires tentage, camp equipage, and other equipment, for which at the present time there is no authority for issue from army stores.

As the Government has adopted the policy of promoting elementary military education in these institutions it is essential that further steps be taken to develop it as herein indicated. Reports of officers on duty as professors of military science and tactics show a striking unanimity of opinion that such issues should be made by the United States, and, accordingly, the aid of Congress is invoked to the extent set forth in the accompanying measure. While the amount asked for is insufficient to meet the needs of more than one-half of the institutions under the supervision of the department, it will afford the means of providing this class of military education to the institutions which have shown the greatest interest in such instruction. Accordingly I would urge upon Congress the wisdom of this appropriation.

Very respectfully,

LUKE E. WRIGHT,  
*Secretary of War.*

The PRESIDENT.

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A BILL To promote military education in civil institutions of learning in the United States.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of War is authorized in his discretion, and under such regulations as he may prescribe, to issue, in addition to the issue of ordnance and ordnance stores now authorized by law, such amounts of equipments, stores, and supplies, except medicines, clothing, and subsistence, pertaining to the supply departments of the army, as may be required for field instruction in the military departments of civil educational institutions having officers of the army detailed on duty therewith as professors of military science and tactics under existing laws: *Provided,* That the Secretary of War shall require a bond in each case from the institution to which issue is made, in double the value of the property issued, for its care, safekeeping, and return when required.

SECTION 2. That for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act there is hereby annually appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars.

