

(74-35)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND TO PRESS, AUGUST 8, 1958.

Senator Strom Thurmond's bill to provide special vocational training for mentally or physically handicapped war orphans was ordered favorably reported today by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

As reported by the Committee, the bill included an amendment by Senator Thurmond which would permit the vocational training to be taken by an eligible war orphan at age 14, instead of at age 18 as provided by existing law.

Senator Thurmond, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, stated that these changes in existing law are needed to eliminate hardship cases which sometimes arise under the administration of the War Orphans Educational Assistance Act of 1956.

Presently, mentally or physically handicapped war orphans cannot utilize their benefits under the Act because conventional education, such as college training, is not suitable to their needs. Nonetheless, the war orphans could benefit from training designed to help overcome their handicaps and make them more self-sustaining in adult life. The legislation reported by the Committee will accomplish this by authorizing the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to approve special courses in vocational training when he finds that such training is suitable to the needs of the particular war orphan.

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