

satisfied that the bridge to be built will conform to the requirements of this Act, to notify the parties authorized to build the same that he approves of the same; and upon receiving such notification the said corporation, its successors or assigns, may proceed to erect said bridge, conforming strictly to the approved plan and location, and should any change in the plan of the bridge or accessory works become desirable during the progress of the work thereon, such change shall only be authorized when recommended by a board of engineer officers and approved by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 5. That any bridge built under this Act and subject to its limitations shall be a lawful structure and shall be recognized and known as a post route, upon which, also, no higher charge shall be made for the transmission over the same of the mails, the troops, and the munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile paid for the transportation over the street railways or public highways leading to the said bridge, and it shall enjoy the rights and privileges of other post roads in the United States, and equal privileges in the use of said bridge shall be granted to all telegraph and telephone companies, and the United States shall have the right of way across said bridge and its approaches for postal-telegraph purposes.

SEC. 6. That this Act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within two years and completed within five years from the date hereof.

SEC. 7. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, June 3, 1896.

Lawful structure and post route.

Postal telegraph.

Commencement and completion.

Amendment, etc.

CHAP. 312.—An Act Relating to commutations of homestead entries, and to confirm such entries when commutation proofs were received by local land officers prematurely.

June 3, 1896.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That whenever it shall appear to the Commissioner of the General Land Office that an error has heretofore been made by the officers of any local land office in receiving premature commutation proofs under the homestead laws, and that there was no fraud practiced by the entryman in making such proofs, and final payment has been made and a final certificate of entry has been issued to the entryman, and that there are no adverse claimants to the land described in the certificates of entry whose rights originated prior to making such final proofs, and that no other reason why the title should not vest in the entryman exists except that the commutation was made less than fourteen months from the date of the homestead settlement, and that there was at least six months' actual residence in good faith by the homestead entryman on the land prior to such commutation, such certificates of entry shall be in all things confirmed to the entryman, his heirs, and legal representatives, as of the date of such final certificate of entry and a patent issue thereon; and the title so patented shall inure to the benefit of any grantee or transferee in good faith of such entryman subsequent to the date of such final certificate: *Provided,* That this Act shall not apply to commutation and homestead entries on which final certificates have been issued, and which have heretofore been canceled when the lands made vacant by such cancellation have been reentered under the homestead Act.

Public lands. Confirmation of homestead entries prematurely commuted. R. S. sec. 2301, p. 421.

Proviso. Exception.

SEC. 2. That all commutations of homestead entries shall be allowed after the expiration of fourteen months from date of settlement.

Allowance of commutation.

SEC. 3. That all Acts and parts of Acts in conflict with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Repeal, etc.

SEC. 4. That this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Effect.

Approved, June 3, 1896.

June 3, 1896.

**CHAP. 313.**—An Act To regulate the practice of medicine and surgery, to license physicians and surgeons, and to punish persons violating the provisions thereof in the District of Columbia.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there shall be, and is hereby, created a board of medical supervisors of the District of Columbia, which shall consist of the presidents of the three boards of medical examiners hereinafter provided for and two persons, not physicians, one of whom shall be learned in the law, to be appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, each for a period of three years, or until his successor is appointed: *Provided,* That not more than two members of the board of supervisors shall be adherents of any one system of medical practice: *And provided further,* That said Commissioners may remove, after due notice and hearing, any member of said board for neglect of duty or other just cause, and that in case of the death, resignation, or removal of any member the vacancy for the unexpired term of said member shall be filled in the same manner as other appointments are made.

**SEC. 2.** That the said board of medical supervisors shall elect a president, a vice-president, and a secretary. Said board shall make, subject to the approval of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, such regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Act. Said board shall hold such meetings as may be necessary for the transaction of business. Said board shall supervise all examinations provided for in this Act, and shall issue all licenses to practice medicine and surgery or midwifery in the District of Columbia. Said board shall keep an official record of its meetings, also an official register of all applicants for examination for licenses to practice medicine and surgery in the District of Columbia. Said register shall show the name, age, place and duration of residence of each candidate, the time he or she has spent in medical study, in or out of medical schools, and the names and locations of all medical schools which have granted said applicant any degree or certificate of attendance upon lectures in medicine. Said register shall also show whether said applicant was rejected or licensed under this Act. Said register shall be prima facie evidence of all matters contained therein. The secretary aforesaid may be elected by said board from others than its own members; said secretary shall also act as treasurer, and shall give such bond as may be required by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia; said secretary shall have the power to administer oaths upon such matters as pertain to the business of said board; said secretary shall mail to the address of each applicant a notice of the time and place of examination, not less than seven days before the examination, and at a longer period if requested by the applicant at the time of making application.

**SEC. 3.** That from and after the passage of this Act all persons desiring to practice medicine and surgery in any of their branches in the District of Columbia shall apply to said board of medical supervisors for a license to do so. Applicants shall submit to examination upon the following-named branches, to wit: Anatomy, physiology, chemistry, pathology, materia medica and therapeutics, hygiene, histology, practice of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, diseases of the eye and the ear, medical jurisprudence, and such other branches as said board shall deem advisable. Each applicant shall be certified by said board for examination as speedily as possible to the board of medical examiners whose members are adherents to the system of medicine which said applicant desires to practice; but said board shall not certify for examination any applicant until satisfactory proof is furnished that he or she is of good moral character and over twenty-one years of age, nor until he or she has presented a diploma conferring upon him or her the degree of doctor of medicine, issued by some medical college authorized by law to confer such degree: *Provided,* That said diploma, if issued prior to July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight,

District of Columbia.  
Board of medical supervisors created.

Provisos.  
Representation of different medical systems.

Vacancies, etc.

Officers.  
Regulations.

Licenses to practice.

Record etc.

Register.

Secretary.

Examinations for license to practice medicine and surgery.

Qualifications.

Proviso.  
Diplomas, etc.