

making appropriations for the Legislative Branch of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1933, and for other purposes", is hereby amended to read as follows:

Placement of orders.

"SEC. 7. (a) Any executive department or independent establishment of the Government, or any bureau or office thereof, if funds are available therefor and if it is determined by the head of such executive department, establishment, bureau, or office to be in the interest of the Government so to do, may place orders with any other such department, establishment, bureau, or office for materials, supplies, equipment, work, or services, of any kind that such requisitioned Federal agency may be in a position to supply or equipped to render, and shall pay promptly by check to such Federal agency as may be requisitioned, upon its written request, either in advance or upon the furnishing or performance thereof, all or part of the estimated or actual cost thereof as determined by such department, establishment, bureau, or office as may be requisitioned; but proper adjustments on the basis of the actual cost of the materials, supplies, or equipment furnished, or work or services performed, paid for in advance, shall be made as may be agreed upon by the departments, establishments, bureaus, or offices concerned: *Provided*, That the War Department, Navy Department, Treasury Department, Civil Aeronautics Administration, and the Maritime Commission may place orders, as provided herein, for materials, supplies, equipment, work, or services, of any kind that any requisitioned Federal agency may be in a position to supply, or to render or to obtain by contract: *Provided further*, That if such work or services can be as conveniently or more cheaply performed by private agencies such work shall be let by competitive bids to such private agencies. Bills rendered, or requests for advance payments made, pursuant to any such order, shall not be subject to audit or certification in advance of payment."

Payment.

Adjustments.

*Provisos.*  
Procurement by contract, etc., for designated agencies.

Work by private agencies.

Approved, July 20, 1942.

[CHAPTER 508]

AN ACT

July 20, 1942  
[S. 2404]

[Public Law 671]

To authorize officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States to accept decorations, orders, medals, and emblems tendered them by governments of cobelligerent nations or other American republics and to create the decorations to be known as the "Legion of Merit", and the "Medal for Merit".

Members of armed forces.  
Acceptance of decorations from certain foreign governments.

*Proviso.*  
Decorations previously bestowed.

"Legion of Merit."  
Creation of decoration.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States be, and they are hereby, authorized during the present war and for a year thereafter to accept from the governments of cobelligerent nations or the other American republics such decorations, orders, medals, and emblems, as may be tendered them, and which are conferred by such governments upon members of their own military forces, hereby expressly granting the consent of Congress required for this purpose by clause 8 of section 9, article I, of the Constitution: *Provided*, That any such officer or enlisted man is hereby authorized to accept and wear any decoration, order, medal, or emblem heretofore bestowed upon such person by the government of a cobelligerent nation or of an American republic.

SEC. 2. (1) That there is hereby created a decoration to be known as the "Legion of Merit", which shall have suitable appurtenances and devices and not more than four degrees, and which the President, under such rules and regulations as he shall prescribe, may award to (a) personnel of the armed forces of the United States and of the Government of the Philippines and (b) personnel of the armed

forces of friendly foreign nations who, since the proclamation of an emergency by the President on September 8, 1939, shall have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

(2) That there is hereby created a decoration to be known as the "Medal for Merit", which shall have distinctive appurtenances and devices and only one degree, and which the President, under such rules and regulations as he shall prescribe, may award to such civilians of the nations prosecuting the war under the joint declaration of the United Nations and of other friendly foreign nations as have, since the proclamation of an emergency by the President on September 8, 1939, distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services: *Provided*, That awards to civilians of foreign nations shall be only for the performance of an exceptionally meritorious or courageous act or acts in furtherance of the war efforts of the United Nations.

SEC. 3. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Approved, July 20, 1942.

[CHAPTER 509]

AN ACT

To authorize temporary appointments in the Army of the United States of officers on duty with the Medical Administrative Corps.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That in time of war or national emergency determined by the President any officer of the Medical Administrative Corps, commissioned in the Army of the United States or any component thereof, may be appointed by the President to higher temporary grade, not above the grade of colonel, without vacating any appointment held by him at the time of such temporary appointment. All officers so appointed shall be commissioned in the Army of the United States and shall receive the pay and allowances of the grade to which temporarily appointed: *Provided*, That any appointment made under the provisions of this Act may be vacated at any time by the President and, if not sooner vacated, shall continue for the duration of such national emergency or for the duration of the war and six months thereafter.

SEC. 2. All appointments and payments which would have been valid had this Act been in effect on and after September 9, 1940, are hereby ratified and validated, and officers appointed to a higher temporary grade whose appointments are ratified and validated by this Act shall be entitled to pay and allowances of such grade for the period during which they served in said grade to be paid out of any funds available for pay of the Army: *Provided*, That credit for payments heretofore made to such officers shall be allowed by the Comptroller General of the United States in the accounts of disbursing officers: *Provided further*, That any amounts collected from any person on account of payments made by reason of an appointment to a higher temporary grade which is ratified and validated by this Act shall be refunded to such person upon presentation of claim therefor to the Comptroller General of the United States who is authorized and directed to certify such claim to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment out of any funds available for pay of the Army.

Approved, July 20, 1942.

54 Stat. 2643.  
50 U. S. C., app.,  
prec. § 1 note.

"Medal for Merit."  
Creation of decoration.

54 Stat. 2643.  
50 U. S. C., app.,  
prec. § 1 note.  
*Proviso.*

Appropriation authorized.

July 20, 1942  
[H. R. 7242]  
[Public Law 672]

Army of the U. S.  
Temporary promotions of Medical Administrative Corps officers.

Commission, pay, and allowances.

*Proviso.*

Validation of previous appointments.

Pay and allowances for period served.

*Provisos.*  
Credit for payments.

Refunds.