

[CHAPTER 419]

AN ACT

To amend the Nationality Act of 1940 to preserve the nationality of citizens residing abroad.

September 27, 1944
[H. R. 4271]
[Public Law 432]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That chapter IV of the Nationality Act of 1940, section 409, is amended to read as follows:

Nationality Act of 1940, amendment.
54 Stat. 1171.
8 U. S. C., Supp. III, § 809.
Citizens residing abroad.
54 Stat. 1170.
8 U. S. C. §§ 804, 807.

"SEC. 409. Nationality shall not be lost under the provisions of section 404 or 407 of this Act until the expiration of five years following the date of the approval of this Act: *Provided, however,* That a naturalized person who shall have become subject to the presumption that he has ceased to be an American citizen as provided for in the second paragraph of section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1907 (34 Stat. 1228), and who shall not have overcome it under the rules in effect immediately preceding the date of the approval of this Act, shall continue to be subject to such presumption for the period of five years following the date of the approval of this Act unless it is overcome during such period."

Approved September 27, 1944.

[CHAPTER 420]

AN ACT

To relinquish the title of the United States to certain lands in the county of Los Angeles, State of California.

September 27, 1944
[H. R. 4286]
[Public Law 433]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all the right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any lands supposed to exist between the east boundary of the Rancho San Francisquito and the west boundary of the Rancho La Puente, in township 1 south, range 11 west, San Bernardino meridian, according to the plats of survey on file in the General Land Office, be, and the same are hereby, released and relinquished by the United States to the equitable owners of the equitable titles thereto and to their respective heirs and assigns forever, as fully and completely, in every respect whatever, as could be done by patents issued according to law: *Provided,* That this Act shall amount only to a relinquishment of any title that the United States has, or is supposed to have, in and to any of said lands, and shall not be construed to abridge, impair, injure, prejudice, or divest in any manner any valid right, title, or interest of any person or body corporate whatever, the true intent of this Act being to concede and abandon all right, title, and interest of the United States to those persons, estates, firms, or corporations who would be the true owners of said lands under the laws of California, including the laws of prescription, in the absence of the said interest, title, and estate of the United States.

County of Los Angeles, Calif.
Relinquishment of U. S. title to certain lands.

Approved September 27, 1944.

[CHAPTER 421]

AN ACT

To allow credit in connection with certain homestead entries for military or naval service rendered during World War II.

September 27, 1944
[H. R. 5025]
[Public Law 434]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who has served or may serve in the military or naval forces of the United States for a period of at least ninety days during World War

Homestead entries by World War II veterans.
Credit for period of service.

II, and is honorably discharged, and who makes homestead entry subsequent to such discharge, shall have the period of his military or naval service, not exceeding two years, construed to be equivalent to residence and cultivation upon the land for the same length of time. Credit shall be allowed for two years' military or naval service (1) if such person is discharged on account of wounds received or disability incurred in the line of duty, or (2) if such person is regularly discharged and subsequently is furnished hospitalization or is awarded compensation by the Government on account of such wounds or disability. No patent shall issue to any such person who has not resided upon his homestead and otherwise complied with the provisions of the homestead laws for a period of at least one year.

Service-incurred wounds or disability.

Residence requirement, etc.

Extension of benefits to unmarried widows, etc.

SEC. 2. In the case of any person who would be entitled to a homestead under the provisions of this Act, his widow, if unmarried, or, in the case of her death or marriage, then his minor orphan children by a guardian duly appointed and officially accredited at the Department of the Interior, shall be entitled to all the benefits enumerated in section 1 of this Act. An entry made by such widow or guardian shall be subject to the provisions contained in said section 1, respecting compliance with the provisions of the homestead laws for a period of at least one year.

Patents to minor orphan children.

SEC. 3. Where a person entitled to the benefits of section 1 or 2 of this Act makes homestead entry and dies before completing title, leaving a minor orphan child, or minor orphan children, patent shall issue to such minor or minors upon proof showing such facts, without any proof as to compliance with the law in the matter of residence, cultivation, or improvements.

Order of revocation. Preferred right of application.

SEC. 4. For the period of ten years following the date of the enactment of this Act, on the revocation of any order of withdrawal, the order of revocation shall provide for a period of not less than ninety days before the date on which it otherwise becomes effective, in which persons of the classes entitled to credit for military or naval service, under the provisions of this Act, shall have a preferred right of application under the homestead or desert land laws, or the Act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609; 43 U. S. C., sec. 682a), subject to the requirements of applicable law, except as against the prior existing valid settlement rights and preference rights conferred by existing laws, or equitable claims subject to allowance and confirmation.

Rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry the provisions of this Act into full force and effect.

Approved September 27, 1944.

[CHAPTER 422]

AN ACT

September 27, 1944
[H. R. 5144]
[Public Law 435]

To authorize the city of Ketchikan, Alaska, to issue bonds in a sum not to exceed \$150,000 for the purpose of constructing and acquiring additions and betterments to and extensions of the electric light and power system of said city, and to provide for the payment thereof, and for other purposes.

Ketchikan, Alaska. Bond issue for public utility improvements.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the city of Ketchikan, Alaska, is hereby authorized to issue and sell its bonds in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, for the purpose of constructing and acquiring additions and betterments to and extensions of the electric light and power system of said city.

Special election.

SEC. 2. Before said bonds shall be issued, a special election shall be ordered by the common council of the said city of Ketchikan, Alaska, at which election the question of whether such bonds shall