

SEC. 7. The city of Ketchikan is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof to obtain a grant or loan of money funds to aid in the construction of the additions and betterments to and extensions of the public utility properties of the city authorized by this Act, and is further authorized to expend surplus moneys in the treasury of the city from the revenues of said public utility properties for such purpose.

Contracts to obtain Federal aid.

SEC. 8. The provisions of this Act and of any resolution or ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds hereunder shall constitute a contract with the holders of such bonds from time to time, and the provisions thereof and hereof shall be enforceable by any owner or holder of said bonds by mandamus or by any other appropriate suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Contract with bondholders; enforcement.

SEC. 9. This Act shall be complete authority for the issuance of the bonds herein authorized, and shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes. Any restrictions, limitations, or regulations relative to the issuance of bonds by the city of Ketchikan, Alaska, contained in any other Act shall not apply to bonds issued under this Act, and any Act inconsistent herewith shall be deemed modified to conform with the provisions of this Act for the purposes of this Act only.

Authority for issuance of bonds.

Approved September 27, 1944.

[CHAPTER 423]

AN ACT

To amend section 22 of the Interstate Commerce Act by authorizing common carriers to grant reduced fares to personnel of armed services.

September 27, 1944
[H. R. 5196]
[Public Law 436]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 22 of the Interstate Commerce Act is hereby amended by inserting after "homes;" at the end of the second clause thereof the following clause: "nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit any common carrier from establishing by publication and filing in the manner prescribed in section 6 reduced fares for application to the transportation of (a) personnel of United States armed services or of foreign armed services, when such persons are traveling at their own expense, in uniform of those services, and while on official leave, furlough, or pass; or (b) persons discharged, retired, or released from United States armed services within thirty days prior to the commencement of such transportation and traveling at their own expense to their homes or other prospective places of abode;"

24 Stat. 387.
49 U. S. C. § 22.

Reduced fares for personnel of armed services.
24 Stat. 380.
49 U. S. C. § 6.

Approved September 27, 1944.

[CHAPTER 424]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the reappointment of Harvey N. Davis and Arthur H. Compton as members of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

September 27, 1944
[H. J. Res. 268]
[Public Law 437]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the vacancies in the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, of the class other than Members of the Congress, which will occur by the expiration of the terms of Harvey N. Davis, of New Jersey, and Arthur H. Compton, of Illinois, on June 14 and 19, 1944, respectively, be filled by the reappointment of the present incumbents for the statutory term of six years.

Board of Regents of Smithsonian Institution.

Approved September 27, 1944.

[CHAPTER 425]

AN ACT

September 27, 1944
[S. 725]
[Public Law 438]

To provide for the punishment of persons conspiring to violate the laws relating to counterfeiting, and certain other laws.

Criminal Code,
amendment,
35 Stat. 1115.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That chapter 7 of the Criminal Code, as amended (U. S. C., 1940 edition, title 18, ch. 7), is hereby further amended by adding at the end thereof the following section:

Conspiracy to violate counterfeiting laws, etc.
35 Stat. 1127, 1131, 1132.

“SEC. 178a. If two or more persons conspire to violate any provision of this chapter, or of sections 205, 218, 219, or 220 of chapter 8 of the Criminal Code, as amended (U. S. C., 1940 edition, title 18, ch. 7, and secs. 328, 347, 348, and 349 of ch. 8), or of the Act of August 26, 1935 (49 Stat. 866; U. S. C., 1940 edition, title 18, sec. 349a), and one or more of such persons do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each of the parties to such conspiracy shall, on conviction thereof, be subject to the same fine or imprisonment, or both, as is applicable in the case of conviction for violating such provision.”

Approved September 27, 1944.

[CHAPTER 426]

AN ACT

September 27, 1944
[S. 1250]
[Public Law 439]

To repeal section 2 of the Act approved May 17, 1926, which provides for the forfeiture of pay of persons in the military and naval service of the United States who are absent from duty on account of the direct effects of venereal disease due to misconduct, and to amend Veterans Regulation Numbered 10, as amended, to define line of duty and misconduct for pension and compensation purposes.

Military and naval personnel.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 of the Act approved May 17, 1926 (44 Stat. 557; 10 U. S. C. 847b; 34 U. S. C. 882b), is hereby repealed.

Veterans.

SEC. 2. That paragraph VIII of Executive Order Numbered 6098, dated March 31, 1933 (Veterans Regulation Numbered 10, as amended; 38 U. S. C., ch. 12), be amended to read as follows:

Injury or disease incurred in line of duty.

“PAR. VIII. An injury or disease incurred during military or naval service will be deemed to have been incurred in line of duty and not the result of the veteran's own misconduct when the person on whose account benefits are claimed was, at the time the injury was suffered or disease contracted, in active service in the military or naval forces, whether on active duty or on authorized leave, unless such injury or disease was the result of his own willful misconduct: *Provided*, That venereal disease shall not be presumed to be due to willful misconduct if the person in service complies with the Army or Navy regulations requiring him to report and receive treatment for such disease: *Provided further*, That the requirement for line of duty will not be met if it appears that at the time the injury was suffered or disease contracted the person on whose account benefits are claimed (1) was avoiding duty by deserting the service, or by absenting himself without leave materially interfering with the performance of military duties; (2) was confined under sentence of court martial or civil court.”

Venereal disease.

Requirement not deemed met in specified cases.

Pension forfeited for disability due to misconduct.

SEC. 3. That paragraph IX of Veterans Regulation Numbered 10, as amended, be and is hereby amended to read:

38 U. S. C. note foll. § 724; Supp. III, note foll. § 732.
Ante, p. 230.

“PAR. IX. Pension shall not be payable under part III, Veterans Regulation Numbered 1 (a), as amended, for any disability due to the claimant's own willful misconduct or vicious habits.”