

as closely to the requirements of the applicable statutes as the Secretary shall find to be feasible.

SEC. 2. When the Secretary of the Navy or the Secretary of the Treasury, or such official or officials as either may designate, shall make any finding or certification as prescribed in section 1, notice of such finding or certification and the character and position of the lights to be displayed on such vessel shall be published in "Notice to Mariners".

SEC. 3. This Act shall expire on June 30, 1948.

Approved December 3, 1945.

Notice of findings, etc.

Expiration date.

[CHAPTER 512]

AN ACT

Authorizing payments of rewards to postal employees for inventions.

December 3, 1945
[H. R. 744]
[Public Law 240]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Postmaster General is authorized, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to pay a cash reward for any invention, suggestion, or series of suggestions submitted by one or more employees of the Post Office Department or the Postal Service, which will clearly effect a material economy or increase efficiency in the administration or operation of the Post Office Department or the Postal Service, and which has been adopted for use.

Postal employees.
Cash rewards for useful inventions, etc.

The total amount of rewards made under this Act in any one fiscal year shall not exceed \$25,000 and the amount so paid for any one invention, suggestion, or series of suggestions shall not exceed \$1,000.

Limitations.

Rewards made under this Act shall be paid out of the appropriation for the postal activity primarily benefiting, or may be distributed among appropriations for postal activities benefiting, as the Postmaster General may determine. Payments shall be in addition to the regular compensation of the employee receiving the reward. No employee shall be paid a reward under this Act until he has properly executed an agreement to the effect that the use by the United States of the invention, suggestion, or series of suggestions made by him shall not form the basis of a further claim of any nature upon the United States by him, his heirs, or assigns.

Payments.

Agreement.

Approved December 3, 1945.

[CHAPTER 513]

AN ACT

To provide that veterans may obtain copies of public records in the District of Columbia, without the payment of any fees, for use in presenting claims to the Veterans' Administration.

December 3, 1945
[H. R. 3868]
[Public Law 241]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when a copy of any public record of the District of Columbia is required by the Veterans' Administration to be used in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in benefits made available by the Veterans' Administration, the official custodian of such public record shall without charge provide the applicant for such benefits or any person (including any veterans' organization) acting on his behalf or the authorized representative of the Veterans' Administration with a certified copy of such record.

District of Columbia.
Public records; copies for veterans.

Approved December 3, 1945.

[CHAPTER 514]

AN ACT

December 3, 1945
[H. R. 3979]
[Public Law 242]

To extend for the period of one year the provisions of the District of Columbia Emergency Rent Act, approved December 2, 1941, as amended.

D. C. Emergency
Rent Act, extension.

55 Stat. 788.
D. C. Code, Supp.
IV, § 45-1601 (b).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act to regulate rents in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes", approved December 2, 1941, as amended, is further amended by striking in section 1 (b) thereof the figure "1945" and inserting in lieu thereof "1946".

Approved December 3, 1945.

[CHAPTER 515]

AN ACT

December 3, 1945
[H. R. 4350]
[Public Law 243]

To amend section 3646 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, relating to the issuance of checks in replacement of lost, stolen, destroyed, mutilated, or defaced checks of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3646 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (U. S. C., title 31, sec. 528), is further amended to read as follows:

Lost, etc., U. S.
checks.
Issuance of substi-
tute checks.

"(a) Except as hereinafter provided, whenever it is clearly proved to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury that any original check of the United States is lost, stolen, or wholly or partly destroyed, or is so mutilated or defaced as to impair its value to its owner or holder, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized, before the close of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the original check was issued to transfer the amount of the original check from the account of the drawer to a special deposit account carried in the name of the Secretary of the Treasury on the books of the Treasurer of the United States, and to issue against such special deposit account to the owner or holder thereof a substitute under current date showing such information as may be necessary to identify the original check, upon the receipt and approval by the Secretary of the Treasury of an undertaking to indemnify the United States, in such form and amount and with such surety, sureties, or security, if any, as the Secretary of the Treasury may require; but no such substitute shall be payable if the original check shall first have been paid: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be deemed to relieve any certifying officer or his sureties or any disbursing officer or his sureties of any liability to the United States on account of any payment resulting from the erroneous issuance of the original check: *And provided further,* That the authority herein conferred to issue substitute checks may, in the case of checks issued on account of public-debt obligations and transactions regarding the administration of banking and currency laws, be exercised without limitation of time.

Restriction.

Liability of certifying or disbursing officer.

Public-debt obligations, etc.

Undertakings of indemnity; exceptions to requirement.

Postal service.

"(b) An undertaking of indemnity shall not be required under subsection (a) of this section in any of the following classes of cases except as provided in this subsection: (1) If the Secretary of the Treasury is satisfied that the loss, theft, destruction, mutilation, or defacement, as the case may be, occurred without fault of the owner or holder and while the check was in the custody or control of the United States (including the postal service when carrying mail for any officer, employee, agent, or agency of the United States when performing services in connection with an official function of the United States, but not including the postal service when otherwise acting solely in its capacity as a public carrier of the mail), or of a