

## [CHAPTER 35]

## AN ACT

February 25, 1946  
[S. 50]  
[Public Law 306]

To permit settlement of accounts of deceased officers and enlisted men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and of deceased commissioned officers of the Public Health Service, without administration of estates.

Settlement of accounts of deceased personnel.  
Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, hereafter, in the settlement of the accounts of deceased officers or enlisted persons of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, where no demand is presented by a duly appointed legal representative of the estate, the accounting officers may allow the amount found due to the decedent's widow, widower, or legal heirs in the following order of precedence: First, to the widow or widower; second, if decedent left no widow or widower, or the widow or widower be dead at time of settlement, then to the children or their issue, per stirpes; third, if no widow, widower, or descendants, then to the father and mother in equal parts; fourth, if either the father or mother be dead, then to the one surviving; fifth, if there be no widow, widower, child, father, or mother at the date of settlement, then to the brothers and sisters and children of deceased brothers and sisters, per stirpes: *Provided*, That this Act shall not be so construed as to prevent payment from the amount due the decedent's estate of funeral expenses, provided a claim therefor is presented by the person or persons who actually paid the same before settlement by the accounting officers.

Funeral expenses.

Public Health Service.  
58 Stat. 711.  
42 U. S. C., Supp.  
V, § 225 (a).  
Repeal.

SEC. 2. Section 507 (a) of the Public Health Service Act (58 Stat. 682) is amended by striking out the words "the amount due the decedent's estate is less than \$1,000 and".

34 U. S. C., Supp.  
V, § 941.

SEC. 3. The following statutes or parts of statutes are hereby repealed: The last paragraph under the heading "Back Pay and Bounty" in chapter 200, *Thirty-fifth Statutes at Large*, 317 (which paragraph is the fourth paragraph on page 373), as amended.

Army.

10 U. S. C., Supp.  
V, § 868.

SEC. 4. The paragraph of the Act entitled "An Act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907, and for other purposes", approved June 30, 1906 (34 Stat. 750), as amended by the Act of December 7, 1944 (58 Stat. 795), which related to the settlement of accounts of deceased officers and enlisted men of the Army, is amended to read as follows:

"Hereafter in the settlement of the accounts of deceased officers or enlisted persons of the Army, where no demand is presented by a duly appointed legal representative of the estate, the accounting officers may allow the amount found due to the decedent's widow, widower, or legal heirs in the following order of precedence: First, to the widow or widower; second, if decedent left no widow or widower, or the widow or widower be dead at time of settlement, then to the children or their issue, per stirpes; third, if no widow, widower, or descendants, then to the father and mother in equal parts; fourth, if either the father or mother be dead, then to the one surviving; fifth, if there be no widow, widower, child, father, or mother at the date of settlement, then to the brothers and sisters and children of deceased brothers and sisters, per stirpes: *Provided*, That this Act shall not be so construed as to prevent payment from the amount due the decedent's estate of funeral expenses, provided a claim therefor is presented by the person or persons who actually paid the same before settlement by the accounting officers."

Funeral expenses.

Approved February 25, 1946.

[CHAPTER 36]

AN ACT

To exempt the Navy Department from statutory prohibitions against the employment of noncitizens, and for other purposes.

February 26, 1946  
 [S. 1618]  
 [Public Law 307]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That statutory provisions prohibiting the payment of compensation to any person not a citizen of the United States shall not apply to any person whose employment by the Navy Department shall be determined by the Secretary of the Navy to be necessary in order to obtain for the benefit of the military services of the United States special technical or scientific knowledge or experience possessed by such person and not readily obtainable from any citizen of the United States.

Navy Department,  
 Employment of  
 noncitizens.

Approved February 26, 1946.

[CHAPTER 48]

AN ACT

To provide for the barring of certain claims by the United States in connection with Government checks and warrants.

March 6, 1946  
 [H. R. 129]  
 [Public Law 308]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That no proceeding in any court shall be brought by the United States or by any agency or official of the United States to enforce the liability of any endorser, transferor, or depository, or financial agent, arising out of a forged or unauthorized signature or endorsement upon or alteration of any check, checks, warrant, or warrants issued by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postmaster General, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers of the United States, or by disbursing officers and agents of the United States, unless such proceeding is commenced within six years after the presentation to the Treasurer of the United States or other drawee of such issued checks or warrants for payment of such check, checks, warrant, or warrants, or unless within that period written notice shall have been given by the United States or an agency thereof to such endorser, transferor, or depository, or financial agent of a claim on account of such liability. Unless a court proceeding shall have been brought or such notice given within the period prescribed herein, any claim against such endorser, transferor, or depository, or financial agent on account of such liability shall be forever barred: *Provided,* That in connection with any claim presented to the General Accounting Office within the time limitation prescribed by section 2 of the Act of June 22, 1926 (44 Stat. 76; U. S. C., title 31, sec. 122), the period within which such a proceeding may be brought or such notice given shall be extended by an additional one hundred and eighty days, and unless such notice shall be given or a court proceeding brought within such extended period any claim against such endorser, transferor, depository, or financial agent on account of such liability shall be forever barred.

Altered, etc., U. S.  
 checks and warrants.  
 Barring of certain  
 claims.

Time extension.  
 44 Stat. 761.

SEC. 2. The Comptroller General of the United States is authorized and directed to allow credit in the accounts of the Treasurer of the United States for the amount of any check, checks, warrant, or warrants with respect to which court proceedings shall have been barred pursuant to the provisions of this Act upon a showing that the barring of such proceedings did not result from any negligence on the part of the Treasurer of the United States in failing to give the notice required by the provision of section 1 of the Act.

Treasurer of U. S.  
 Credit in accounts.

SEC. 3. If any endorser, transferor, or depository, or financial agent who is liable to any of the actions mentioned in this Act shall fraudulently conceal the cause of such action from the knowledge of

Action when facts  
 fraudulently con-  
 cealed.