

[CHAPTER 482]

AN ACT

June 16, 1948
[S. 2455]
[Public Law 656]

To amend the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, as amended, by limiting the liability of certain persons not in possession of aircraft.

Civil Aeronautics
Act, amendment.
49 U. S. C., Supp.
I, § 421 *et seq.*

Liability of owner,
etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, as amended (52 Stat. 973; U. S. C., title 49, sec. 401 and the following), is further amended by inserting, immediately following section 503 thereof, the following new section:

“SEC. 504. No person having a security interest in, or security title to, any civil aircraft under a contract of conditional sale, equipment trust, chattel or corporate mortgage, or other instrument of similar nature, and no lessor of any such aircraft under a bona fide lease of thirty days or more, shall be liable by reason of such interest or title, or by reason of his interest as lessor or owner of the aircraft so leased, for any injury to or death of persons, or damage to or loss of property, on the surface of the earth (whether on land or water) caused by such aircraft, or by the ascent, descent, or flight of such aircraft or by the dropping or falling of an object therefrom, unless such aircraft is in the actual possession or control of such person at the time of such injury, death, damage, or loss.”

Approved June 16, 1948.

[CHAPTER 483]

AN ACT

June 16, 1948
[S. 2456]
[Public Law 657]

To provide safety in aviation and to direct a study of the causes and characteristics of thunderstorms and other atmospheric disturbances.

Study of thunder-
storms, etc.

Reports to Congress.

Expenditures.

41 U. S. C. § 5.

Cooperation of other
agencies.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Chief of the Weather Bureau is authorized and directed to study fully and thoroughly the internal structure of thunderstorms, hurricanes, cyclones, and other severe atmospheric disturbances, particularly the degree of turbulence within such storms and the development, maintenance, and magnitude of updrafts and downdrafts with a view to establishing methods by which the characteristics of particular thunderstorms may be forecast and methods by which the characteristics of such storms may be determined on visual observation from outside of the immediate thunderstorm area. Such study shall be concluded at the earliest practicable date and a final report submitted to Congress. The Chief of the Weather Bureau shall make interim reports to Congress at least annually during the course of the study.

SEC. 2. The Chief of the Weather Bureau is empowered to make such expenditures at the seat of government and elsewhere as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act and as from time to time may be appropriated for by Congress, including expenditures for the development and purchase of special meteorological instruments and other equipment (including motor vehicles and aircraft), without regard to the provisions of section 3709 of the Revised Statutes. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. Any executive department or independent establishment is hereby authorized to cooperate with the Chief of the Weather Bureau in carrying out the purposes of this Act, and for such purposes may lend or transfer to the Chief of the Weather Bureau any officer or employee of such department or establishment and any property, equipment, lands, or buildings under its control.

Approved June 16, 1948.

[CHAPTER 484]

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to convey to the Mystic River Bridge Authority, an instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, an easement for the construction and operation of bridge approaches over and across lands comprising a part of the United States Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Massachusetts.

June 16, 1948
[S. 2553]
[Public Law 658]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized to convey to the Mystic River Bridge Authority, an instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, without cost to said authority, and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Navy may deem proper, a perpetual easement for the construction, maintenance, repairs, and operation of approaches to a high level toll bridge crossing Mystic River over and across certain lands comprising a part of the United States Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Massachusetts, metes and bounds description of which is on file in the Navy Department.

Mystic River.
Bridge, Chelsea,
Mass.

Approved June 16, 1948.

[CHAPTER 485]

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to convey to the Commonwealth of Virginia a right-of-way for public-highway purposes in certain lands at Pungo, Virginia.

June 16, 1948
[S. 2593]
[Public Law 659]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he hereby is, authorized to convey to the Commonwealth of Virginia, without cost to the said Commonwealth, and upon such terms and conditions as he may deem proper, a perpetual easement for public-highway purposes in, over, and across a strip of land contiguous to the former naval auxiliary air station, Pungo, Virginia, being approximately one thousand five hundred and ninety-five feet long and containing one and fifty-eight one-hundredths acres, more or less, metes and bounds description of which is on file in the Navy Department.

Pungo, Va.
Easement.

Approved June 16, 1948.

[CHAPTER 486]

AN ACT

To amend Public Law Numbered 432, Seventy-sixth Congress, to include an allowance of expenses incurred by Veterans' Administration beneficiaries and their attendants in authorized travel for vocational-rehabilitation purposes.

June 16, 1948
[H. R. 5134]
[Public Law 660]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1 of Public Law Numbered 432, Seventy-sixth Congress, approved March 14, 1940 (54 Stat. 49), as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Veterans' Admin-
istration.
38 U. S. C. § 76.
Ante, p. 160.

"That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is hereby authorized, under regulations to be prescribed by the President, to pay the actual necessary expenses of travel, including lodging and subsistence, or in lieu thereof an allowance based upon the mileage traveled, of any person to or from a Veterans' Administration facility or other place in connection with vocational rehabilitation or for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care: *Provided*, That payment of mileage in connection with vocational rehabilitation or upon termination of examination, treatment, or care may be made prior to completion of such travel: *And provided further*, That when any such person requires an

Travel expenses.

Expenses of attend-
ant.