

request of the board, make the transfer accordingly: *Provided*, That the total amount hereafter expended by the board for this purpose shall not in the aggregate exceed \$25,000,000. Any such vessel hereafter so equipped by the board under the provisions of this section shall not be sold for a period of five years from the date the installation thereof is completed, unless it is sold for a price not less than the cost of the installation thereof and of any other work of reconditioning done at the same time plus an amount not less than \$10 for each dead-weight ton of the vessel as computed before such reconditioning thereof is commenced. The date of the completion of such installation and the amount of the dead-weight tonnage of the vessel shall be fixed by the board: *Provided further*, That in fixing the minimum price at which the vessel may thus be sold the board may deduct from the aggregate amount above prescribed 5 per centum thereof per annum from the date of the installation to the date of sale as depreciation: *And provided further*, That no part of such fund shall be expended upon the reconditioning of any vessel unless the board shall have first made a binding contract for a satisfactory sale of such vessel in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or for the charter or lease of such vessels for a period of not less than five years by a capable, solvent operator; or unless the board is prepared and intends to directly put such vessel in operation immediately upon completion. Such vessel, in any of the enumerated instances, shall be documented under the laws of the United States and shall remain documented under such laws for a period of not less than five years from the date of the completion of the installation, and during such period it shall be operated only on voyages which are not exclusively coastwise."

Approved, June 6, 1924.

*Proviso.*  
Aggregate limited.  
Restrictions on sale within five years after completion, unless for specified price.  
Date of completion, etc.  
Depreciation allowed.  
Reconditioning restrictions.  
Documenting, etc.  
Voyages not exclusively coastwise, required.

CHAP. 274.—An Act To amend section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for stock-raising homesteads, and for other purposes," approved December 29, 1916 (Thirty-ninth Statutes at Large, page 862).

June 6, 1924.  
[S. 351.]  
[Public, No. 206.]

*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 December 29, 1916, entitled "An Act to provide for stock-raising homesteads, and for other purposes" (Thirty-ninth Statutes at Large, page 862), be, and is hereby, amended to read as follows:

Public lands.  
Stock-raising homesteads.  
Vol. 39, p. 862, amended.

"SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, on application or otherwise, to designate as stock-raising lands subject to entry under this Act lands the surface of which is, in his opinion, chiefly valuable for grazing and raising forage crops, do not contain merchantable timber, are not susceptible of irrigation from any known source of water supply, and are of such character that six hundred and forty acres are reasonably required for the support of a family: *Provided*, That where any person qualified to make original or additional entry under the provisions of this Act shall make application to enter any unappropriated public land which has not been designated as subject to entry (provided said application is accompanied and supported by properly corroborated affidavit of the applicant, in duplicate, showing prima facie that land applied for is of the character contemplated by this Act), such application, together with the regular fees and commissions, shall be received by the register and receiver of the land district in which said land is located and suspended until it shall have been determined by the Secretary of the Interior whether said land is actually of that character. That during such suspension the

Character of lands for, to be designated.

*Proviso.*  
Application for entry of undesignated lands.

Suspension until character of lands determined.

No occupancy prior to designation.

Application for enlarged or ordinary homestead by resident if land not designated as stock-raising.

Provisions governing changed application.

land described in the application shall not be disposed of; and if the said land shall be designated under this Act, then such application shall be allowed, otherwise it shall be rejected, subject to appeal; but no right to occupy such lands shall be acquired by reason of said application until said lands have been designated as stock-raising lands, unless the applicant actually establishes his residence and resides on the land; and until final action on such application, the settler may, if the land be not designated under this Act, change his application to one under the enlarged homestead law if such lands be designated thereunder, or to one under the ordinary provisions of the homestead law: *Provided*, That if the settler shall change his application he shall embrace therein the lands upon which his residence and principal improvements are located, and conform to the provisions, limitations, and conditions of the applicable law."

Approved, June 6, 1924.

June 6, 1924.  
[S. 2169.]  
[Public, No. 207.]

CHAP. 275.—An Act To amend in certain particulars the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, as amended, and for other purposes.

National Defense Act amendments.  
Enlisted men.  
Percentage of grades modified.  
Vol. 41, p. 761.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That hereafter the respective grade percentages prescribed in section 4 (b) of the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, as amended, of the total authorized number of enlisted men shall not exceed 0.79 per centum for the first grade, 2.1 per centum for the second grade, 3.4 per centum for the third grade, 9.2 per centum for the fourth grade, 9.5 per centum for the fifth grade, and 25 per centum for the sixth grade; and aforementioned section 4 (b) is hereby amended accordingly.

Assignments.  
Officers excepted from duty with combatant arms.

SEC. 2. Add at the end of section 4c of the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, as amended, the following: "When in his judgment efficiency demands such action, the President is authorized to except officers of the Medical Corps, Ordnance Department, and Chemical Warfare Service from the provisions of this section requiring duty with troops of one or more of the combatant arms. The President is further authorized to except from the provisions of this section requiring duty with troops of one or more of the combatant arms such officers of the Judge Advocate General's Department as are now engaged in patent litigation in which the Government is involved."

Also officers of Judge Advocate General's Department now engaged in patent litigation of the Government.

New matter.  
Vol. 33, p. 190, amended.  
Vol. 41, p. 776.

SEC. 3. That said National Defense Act, as amended, be, and the same is hereby, further amended by inserting therein, immediately after section 37 thereof, a new section to be known as section 38, in lieu of original section 38 struck out by section 31 of the amendatory Act of June 4, 1920, and to read as follows:

Reserve officers.  
To be commissioned in the Army.  
Period of officers in recognized National Guard.

"SEC. 38. COMMISSIONS OF RESERVE OFFICERS.—All persons appointed reserve officers shall be commissioned in the Army of the United States. Officers of the National Guard, federally recognized as such under the provisions of this Act, who are appointed reserve officers under the provisions of section 37 of this Act, shall be appointed for the period during which such recognition shall continue in effect and terminating at the expiration thereof in lieu of the five-year period hereinbefore prescribed, and in time of peace shall be governed by such special regulations appropriate for this class of reserve officers as the Secretary of War may prescribe."

Regulations in time of peace.

Vol. 41, p. 781, amended.

SEC. 4. That section 69 of said National Defense Act, as amended, be, and the same is hereby, amended to read as follows:

National Guard.  
Enlistment periods modified

"SEC. 69. Original enlistments in the National Guard shall be for a period of three years, and subsequent enlistments for periods of one year or three years each."