

quitclaim to the State of California for the benefit of the State and/or of those claiming under the State at the date of such quitclaim, deed, all the right, title, interest, and estate of the United States in and to the lands of Goose Lake held, or that might be asserted, by the United States under or in pursuance of the act of February 3, 1905, of the State of California (California Statutes, 1905, page 4).

Approved, June 5, 1942.

[CHAPTER 349]

AN ACT

To expedite the settlement of claims and accounts incident to certain agricultural adjustment programs, and for other purposes.

June 5, 1942
[H. R. 5636]
[Public Law 539]

Agricultural adjustment programs.
Settlement of claims and accounts.

7 U. S. C., ch. 26.
Ante, p. 85.
Time limit for filing.

Disposition of unobligated balance.

Proviso.
Administrative expenses.

Credit in accounts of disbursing officers.
48 Stat. 31.
7 U. S. C., ch. 26.
Ante, p. 85.

49 Stat. 1116.

7 U. S. C. §§ 1401-1407.

Proviso.
Payments made in good faith.

Excess payments received in good faith.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to expedite the settlement of claims and accounts incident to the agricultural adjustment programs in effect prior to January 6, 1936, under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 (48 Stat. 31), amendments thereto, and related legislation, no claim shall be considered or paid from the appropriation "Payments for Agricultural Adjustment" made by the Supplemental Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1936 (49 Stat. 1116), as amended, unless presented to the Secretary of Agriculture within one hundred and twenty calendar days from the date of approval of this Act, and the unobligated balance remaining in said appropriation one hundred and eighty calendar days after the date of approval of this Act shall be covered into the surplus fund of the Treasury: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of such unobligated balance shall remain available thereafter for not more than one calendar year for administrative expenses incident to carrying out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 2. That with respect to payments made in connection with any program (1) under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 or amendments thereto or other legislation relating to programs inaugurated prior to January 6, 1936, which were administered through the Agricultural Adjustment Administration; (2) under the appropriation "Payments for Agricultural Adjustment" as made in the Supplemental Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1936, as amended; or (3) under title IV of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (52 Stat. 70), amendments thereto and related legislation, the Comptroller General of the United States is hereby authorized to allow credit in the accounts of the disbursing officers who made the payments and no charge shall be raised against the certifying officers who certified the vouchers: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture certifies that such payments were made in good faith and without fraud or collusion on the part of such disbursing officers or certifying officers.

SEC. 3. That where it appears payments mentioned in section 2 hereof have been made in excess of the amounts to which the persons to whom such payments were made were entitled, without fraud on their part, no action shall be taken by the United States to recover such excess payments if the Secretary of Agriculture, after such investigation as he deems appropriate, certifies that, considering the contribution made in good faith by any such person to agricultural adjustment compared with the contributions of other persons somewhat similarly situated, it would be inequitable to require refund of the excessive payments; or certifies that appropriate efforts to obtain such refunds have failed and there is no reasonable prospect of later obtaining such refunds.

Approved, June 5, 1942.

[CHAPTER 350]

AN ACT

Granting the consent of Congress to an amendment to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, providing a method for executing leases for grazing and agricultural purposes on lands granted or confirmed to the State of New Mexico by the Act of Congress approved June 20, 1910.

June 5, 1942
[H. R. 6625]
[Public Law 590]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the consent of Congress is hereby granted to the State of New Mexico and the qualified electors thereof to amend the constitution of such State by the adoption of the following amendment proposed by the legislature of said State at its fifteenth regular session by Senate Joint Resolution Numbered 8, approved April 4, 1941, to be added to the end of article XXIV of the constitution of said State, to be designated as: "Paragraph (A), Article XXIV" and entitled: "Contracts Relating to Grazing and Agricultural Leases Upon State Lands", said amendment being as follows, to wit:

New Mexico.
Amendment of State
constitution.

Execution of leases
for grazing and agri-
cultural purposes.

"Leases for grazing and agricultural purposes on lands granted or confirmed to the State of New Mexico by the Act of Congress of June 20, 1910, entitled 'An Act to enable the people of New Mexico to form a constitution and State government and be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States; and to enable the people of Arizona to form a constitution and State government and be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States', may be made under such provisions relating to the necessity or requirements for or the mode and manner of the appraisal, advertisement, and competitive bidding, and containing such terms and provisions as may be provided by the act of the legislature; the rentals and other proceeds therefrom to be applied and conserved in accordance with the provisions of said Act of Congress for the support or in aid of the common schools or for the attainment of the respective purposes for which these several grants of land were made."

36 Stat. 557.

SEC. 2. The consent of Congress also is granted to such State to enact such laws and establish such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to carry such constitutional provision into full force and effect upon its adoption.

Enactment of State
laws, etc., upon adop-
tion.

Approved, June 5, 1942.

[CHAPTER 351]

AN ACT

To provide that the unexplained absence of any individual for seven years shall be deemed sufficient evidence of death for the purpose of laws administered by the Veterans' Administration.

June 5, 1942
[H. R. 6646]
[Public Law 591]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no State law providing for presumption of death shall be applicable to claims for benefits under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration. If satisfactory evidence is produced establishing the fact of the continued and unexplained absence of any individual from his home and family for a period of seven years, and that after diligent search no evidence of his existence after date of disappearance has been found or otherwise received, the death of such absentee as of the date of the expiration of such period may be considered as sufficiently proved: *Provided,* That, except in a suit brought pursuant to the provisions of section 19 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, or section 617 of the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940, as amended, the finding of death made by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs shall be final and conclusive.

Veterans' Adminis-
tration.
Presumption of
death after 7 years'
unexplained absence.

Proviso.
43 Stat. 612; 54 Stat.
1014.
38 U. S. C. §§ 445,
817.
Post, p. 659.

Approved, June 5, 1942.