

[CHAPTER 404]

AN ACT

To amend the Act of August 2, 1939, entitled "An Act to prevent pernicious political activities", as amended by the Act of April 1, 1944, entitled "An Act to facilitate voting, in time of war, by members of the land and naval forces, members of the merchant marine, and others, absent from the place of their residence, and to amend the Act of September 16, 1942, and for other purposes".

August 21, 1944
[S. 2050]
[Public Law 418]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 22 of the Act of August 2, 1939, as amended by the Act of April 1, 1944 (Public Law 277, Seventy-eighth Congress), is amended to read as follows:

Pernicious political activities.
Ante, p. 148.

"SEC. 22. It shall be unlawful for any officer of, or person employed in, the executive branch of the Federal Government, or any agency or department thereof, including the Army and Navy, to deliver or cause to be delivered to persons in the armed forces of the United States any general communication, Government magazine, Government newspaper, motion-picture film, or other literature or material, or to make, or cause to be made, any broadcast to the armed forces of the United States, paid for in whole or in part with Government funds, or sponsored by the Government, or any agency or department thereof, including the Army and Navy, which when considered in its entirety contains political propaganda obviously designed to affect the result of any election for President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Member of the Senate, or Member of the House of Representatives, or obviously calculated to create bias for or against a particular candidate in any such election, except as hereinafter provided:

Unlawful acts.

"(1) The word 'sponsored' as used herein shall not be deemed to include sales at or through post exchanges, ship's service stores, or ship's stores of the armed forces, or purchases by company funds, welfare funds, or other similar nonappropriated funds of the armed forces.

Exceptions.
"Sponsored."

"(2) Nothing herein shall prohibit the rebroadcast over Government-controlled radio stations of any political address, but equal time must if requested be given for such purposes to representatives of each political party which has a candidate for President in at least six States in the current Presidential election.

Rebroadcasts of political addresses.

"(3) Nothing herein shall prevent the Army or Navy, or personnel thereof, from selling, distributing, presenting, or making available to members of the armed forces—

"(a) books, magazines, or newspapers of general circulation in the United States and also, in an overseas command, those of general circulation therein; or motion-picture films, radio broadcasts, radio rebroadcasts, plays, or entertainment material as generally presented to the public in the United States; or written material for use in educational programs of the armed forces similar to written material generally provided for use in civilian educational programs by recognized educational institutions in the United States: *Provided*, That the selection of such books, magazines, and newspapers, when the selection is necessarily limited by difficulties of transportation or other exigencies of war, shall be made in some impartial manner prescribed by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy for their respective services, such as a preference expressed by members of the armed forces, or the recommendation of expert committees, or otherwise;

Books, magazines, newspapers, motion-picture films, etc.

Impartial selections.

"(b) impartial and nonpartisan coverage or presentation of news or information of public events and affairs and persons in

Impartial coverage of news, etc.

Equality of space or
time allotments.

Letters, etc., to
members of armed
forces.

Ante, p. 149.
Termination of spec-
ified sections.
Ante, pp. 727, 149.

public life, through the media of servicemen's publications and motion pictures, radio programs, news services, and educational and orientation courses originated by the Army or Navy: *Provided*, That if in any issue or presentation space or time is allotted to editorials or columns supporting a political party which has a candidate for President in at least six States in the current Presidential election, an equal amount of space or time shall be allotted in the same issue or presentation to similar matter concerning each such other political party.

"(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent the sending of any letter, communication, magazine, newspaper, or other literature by any individual, corporation (other than a Government-owned or Government-controlled corporation), or political committee to any member of the armed forces, addressed personally to such member of the armed forces, and paid for by him, or by the individual, corporation, or committee sending the same."

SEC. 2. Such Act as amended is further amended by adding after section 24 thereof the following new section:

"SEC. 25. The provisions of sections 22 and 23 shall expire upon the expiration of six months after the termination of hostilities in the present war as proclaimed by the President or declared by concurrent resolution of the Congress."

Approved August 21, 1944.

[CHAPTER 405]

AN ACT

September 7, 1944
[S. 1508]
[Public Law 419]

To provide effective date of awards of death pension or compensation in cases of persons missing or missing in action to authorize payment of such benefits from the date of death of such person as reported or found by the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy, and for other purposes.

Army and Navy.
Death pension, etc.

48 Stat. 8.
38 U. S. C. §§ 701-
721; Supp. III, § 701
et seq.
Ante, p. 287.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That effective December 7, 1941, where in the case of a person in the active land or naval service a report of death or a finding of death has been made by the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy, the effective date of an award of death pension or compensation payable under Public Law Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress, as amended, shall be the day following the date fixed by the Secretary as the date of death in such report or finding: *Provided*, That claim be filed prior to one year after report or finding of death is made: *And provided further*, That death pension or compensation under the laws administered by the Veterans' Administration shall not be payable to any dependent for any period for which such dependent has received, or is entitled to receive, an allowance, allotment, or service pay of the deceased.

Approved September 7, 1944.

[CHAPTER 406]

AN ACT

September 7, 1944
[S. 1934]
[Public Law 420]

To provide for abandonment of the project authorized in the Act of October 17, 1940, for a seaplane channel and basin in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts.

Boston Harbor,
Mass.

54 Stat. 1198.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the project for construction of a seaplane channel and basin in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, authorized in the Act of October 17, 1940, is hereby abandoned, such abandonment having been recommended by the Chief of Engineers in a report contained in House Document Numbered 472, Seventy-eighth Congress.

Approved September 7, 1944.