

[CHAPTER 293]

AN ACT

May 14, 1948
[H. R. 5262]
[Public Law 529]

To authorize the sale of individual Indian lands acquired under the Act of June 18, 1934, and under the Act of June 26, 1936.

Sale of Indian lands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior, or his duly authorized representative, is hereby authorized in his discretion, and upon application of the Indian owners, to issue patents in fee, to remove restrictions against alienation, and to approve conveyances, with respect to lands or interests in lands held by individual Indians under the provisions of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), or the Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967).

25 U. S. C. §§ 461-479, 501-509; Supp. I, § 502.
Post, p. 991.

Approved May 14, 1948.

[CHAPTER 298]

AN ACT

May 18, 1948
[H. R. 1189]
[Public Law 530]

To establish the methods of advancement for post-office employees (rural carriers) in the field service.

Seniority Act for Rural Mail Carriers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the seniority status of a rural mail carrier shall be based upon the regulations of the Post Office Department which provide that seniority shall commence on the day of appointment as a regular rural carrier. In case of voluntary transfer from one post office to another, or from any branch of the service into the rural service, the relative seniority of the transferee shall be determined by the date of entrance into the rural service of the office to which transfer is made.

Original appointments.

SEC. 2. All rural carriers, upon entering the service, shall be assigned to the least desirable route and shall rise to the more desirable routes by seniority only.

Promotions.

SEC. 3. The awarding of promotions and preferential assignments shall be based upon seniority and ability; if ability be sufficient, seniority shall govern.

New route or vacancy.

SEC. 4. Each new route or vacancy shall be bulletined and all rural carriers attached to the office shall be given a chance to apply. The senior rural carrier who applies shall be assigned thereto as provided in section 3.

Inability to fill assignment.

SEC. 5. Rural carriers awarded these assignments shall have ninety days in which to demonstrate their fitness for the route and shall not be removed therefrom until their inability to fill the assignment has been proven. In case of their inability to fill the new assignment they shall be returned to their former position. Such rural carrier shall be allowed the right of appeal as stated in section 6.

Hearing.

SEC. 6. (a) A senior rural carrier who makes application for a new or vacant route, whose application has been denied, or who has been declared incompetent for same, shall have the right, upon written request, to a hearing before a post-office inspector, on his case, and shall be furnished a statement in writing of the reasons for his rejection by official responsible for same.

(b) This hearing shall occur, except under unusual conditions preventing same, within ten days from the date of his request. In case of a postponement, the rural carrier affected shall be given a written statement of the reason for the postponement.

(c) The rural carrier shall have the right to be represented at the hearing by not more than three representatives of his own choosing.

SEC. 7. The provisions of this Act shall not be construed as supplanting any civil-service regulations in effect on the date of its enactment.

SEC. 8. This Act shall be known as the "Seniority Act for Rural Mail Carriers".

Approved May 18, 1948.

Short title.

[CHAPTER 299]

AN ACT

To increase temporarily the amount of Federal aid to State or Territorial homes for the support of disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States.

May 18, 1948
[H. R. 1562]
[Public Law 531]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act to provide aid to State or Territorial homes for the support of disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States", approved August 27, 1888, as amended (U. S. C., 1946 edition, title 24, sec. 134), is amended by striking out in the first paragraph thereof "\$300 per annum" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$500 per annum from the effective date of this amendment through June 30, 1951, and \$300 per annum thereafter".

Disabled soldiers
and sailors.
Support.

25 Stat. 450.

SEC. 2. The amendment made by this Act shall apply to payments with respect to the care given to disabled soldiers and sailors on and after the first day of the month next following the month during which this Act is enacted: *Provided*, That said payments shall be made regardless of whether said veteran may be receiving domiciliary care or hospitalization in said home and the appropriations of the Veterans' Administration for medical, hospital, and domiciliary care shall be available for this purpose: *Provided further*, That no payment to a State or Territory under this Act shall be made for any period prior to the date upon which the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs determines that the veteran on whose account such payment is requested is eligible for such care in a Veterans' Administration facility.

Effective date.

Approved May 18, 1948.

[CHAPTER 300]

AN ACT

To authorize the attendance of the United States Marine Band at the Eighty-second National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 26 to 30, 1948.

May 18, 1948
[H. R. 5035]
[Public Law 532]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized to permit the band of the United States Marine Corps to attend and give concerts at the Eighty-second National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 26 to 30, 1948.

U. S. Marine Band.
Attendance at
G. A. R. encamp-
ment.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of defraying the expenses of such band in attending and giving concerts at such convention, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated a sufficient sum to cover the cost of transportation and pullman accommodations for the leaders and members of the Marine Band, and allowance not to exceed \$6 per day each for additional traveling and living expenses while on duty, such allowances to be in addition to the pay and allowance to which they would be entitled while serving their permanent station.

Appropriation au-
thorized.

Approved May 18, 1948.