

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.

[CHAPTER 302]

AN ACT

May 18, 1948
[H. R. 4068]
[Public Law 533]

To authorize the Federal Works Administrator to construct a building for the General Accounting Office on square 518 in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

General Accounting
Office.
Construction of
building.

Cost limitation.
Post, p. 1033.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in lieu of completing the construction of the building authorized by the First Supplemental Civil Functions Appropriation Act, 1941 (54 Stat. 1036), for the use and occupancy of the General Accounting Office, the Federal Works Administrator is hereby authorized to construct upon square 518 in the District of Columbia a building for the use and occupancy of the General Accounting Office under a limit cost of \$22,850,000, exclusive of funds heretofore obligated or expended for the account of the building hereby superseded: *Provided*, That to the extent practicable, the excavations and construction work heretofore performed upon said site for the building hereby superseded may be utilized for the building herein authorized: *Provided further*, That all powers granted the Federal Works Administrator with respect to the building for the General Accounting Office in the District of Columbia by said First Supplemental Civil Functions Appropriation Act, 1941, are hereby continued and may be exercised for the purposes of this Act within the limits herein fixed.

Unexpended bal-
ances.

SEC. 2. The balances of any funds heretofore appropriated under authority of said First Supplemental Civil Functions Appropriation Act, 1941, for the building superseded by the building herein authorized which are unexpended and unobligated on the date of approval of this Act, are hereby made available for the purpose of, and shall be chargeable against the authorization contained in this Act; and the Federal Works Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into contracts for the construction of the building herein authorized as funds are appropriated or contract authorizations are provided therefor.

Additional appro-
priations.

SEC. 3. No appropriation of funds, in addition to those continued available by section 2 of this Act, shall be made for expenditure during any fiscal year prior to 1950: *Provided*, That for expenditure during the fiscal year 1950 and thereafter, there are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act within the limit of cost of \$22,850,000 herein fixed.

Approved May 18, 1948.

[CHAPTER 303]

AN ACT

May 18, 1948
[H. R. 107]
[Public Law 534]

For the acquisition and maintenance of wildlife management and control areas in the State of California, and for other purposes.

Wildlife manage-
ment and control
areas, Calif.

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 is authorized to purchase or rent not to exceed twenty thousand acres of land or interests therein in suitable locations in the State of California, for the management and control of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife in connection therewith, from moneys to be appropriated by Congress from time to time: *Provided*, That no sums appropriated under this authority for the acquisition of lands shall be expended for such purpose unless and until the State of California shall have set aside and made available for expenditure funds for the purchase of equivalent acreages as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

Action by Secretary
of Interior.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior may do all things and make all