

[CHAPTER 521]

AN ACT

To authorize the sale of public lands in Alaska.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That public lands in Alaska not within national parks or monuments, national forests, Indian lands, and military reservations, which have been classified by the Secretary of the Interior as suitable for industrial or commercial purposes, including the construction of housing, may be sold by him at public auction, after giving not less than thirty days' notice of such intended sale in a newspaper of general circulation in Alaska, in tracts not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres in the aggregate, to any bidder who furnishes proof satisfactory to the Secretary that such bidder has the bona fide intention and the means to develop the tract for such use: *Provided*, That withdrawn or reserved lands may be disposed of under this Act only with the consent of any department or agency having administrative jurisdiction over such lands.

SEC. 2. No sale shall be made for less than the appraised price of the land and the cost of making any survey to properly describe the land sold.

SEC. 3. There shall be issued to each purchaser of land under this Act a certificate of purchase. Within three years after issuance of such certificate, upon proof supported by affidavits of two disinterested persons that the purchaser has used the land for the purpose for which it was classified for sale for a period of not less than six months, a patent in fee shall be issued. Patents under this Act shall issue only after survey, and shall contain a reservation to the United States of all minerals in the lands patented, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals, and such other reservations as may be necessary and proper: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding the provisions of any Act of Congress to the contrary, any person who hereafter prospects for, mines, or removes any minerals from any land disposed of under this Act shall be liable for any damage that may be caused to the value of the land and tangible improvements thereon by such prospecting for, mining, or removal of minerals. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair any vested right in existence on the effective date of this section.

SEC. 4. This Act shall not affect any existing valid rights. The Act of May 14, 1898 (48 U. S. C., secs. 371 and 462), as amended, creating shore space reserves, shall not apply to nor limit the operation of this Act.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior may make such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper to provide for the development, under applicable law, of minerals reserved to the United States, to provide appropriate notice of and method of conducting sales, to prevent speculation, to promote the orderly development of lands in Alaska, to provide protection and compensation for damages from mining activities to the surface and improvements thereon, and to carry out any of the other purposes of this Act.

Approved August 30, 1949.

August 30, 1949  
[H. R. 2850]  
[Public Law 275]

Alaska.  
Sale of public lands.

Sale price.

Certificate of purchase.  
Patent in fee.

Rights reserved to U. S.

Liability.

30 Stat. 409, 413.

Rules and regulations.

[CHAPTER 522]

AN ACT

To authorize the addition of certain lands to the Big Bend National Park, in the State of Texas, and for other purposes.

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 acquire, in such manner as he shall

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[H. R. 2877]  
[Public Law 276]

Big Bend National Park, Tex.  
Additional land.

Cost limitation.

consider to be in the public interest, any land or interests in land situated within sections 15, 22, 27, 34, block 234, Brewster County, Texas, which he shall consider to be suitable for addition to the Big Bend National Park: *Provided, however*, That the aggregate cost to the Federal Government of properties acquired hereafter and under the provisions hereof shall not exceed the sum of \$10,000. Properties acquired pursuant to this Act shall become a part of the park upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States.

Approved August 30, 1949.

[CHAPTER 523]

AN ACT

August 30, 1949  
[H. R. 4498]  
[Public Law 277]

To amend section 6 of the Act of April 15, 1938, to expedite the carriage of mail by granting additional authority to the Postmaster General to award contracts for the transportation of mail by aircraft upon star routes.

Postal Service.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 6 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for experimental air-mail services to further develop safety, efficiency, and economy, and for other purposes", approved April 15, 1938 (39 U. S. C. 470), is hereby amended to read as follows:

52 Stat. 219.

Star route air-mail service.

"SEC. 6. (a) Whenever he shall find it to be in the public interest, because of the nature of the terrain, or the impracticability or inadequacy of surface transportation, and where the cost thereof is reasonably compatible with the service to be provided, the Postmaster General may award contracts for the transportation by aircraft upon star routes of any or all classes of mail (including but not limited to air mail and air parcel post), payment for such service to be made from the appropriation for inland transportation by star routes: *Provided*, That all laws and regulations not in conflict with this section governing star routes shall be applicable to contracts made under the authority of this section: *Provided further*, That the provisions of title IV of the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, approved June 23, 1938 (52 Stat. 973), as amended other than sections 407, 408, 409, 412, 413, 414, and 416 thereof shall not apply to the transportation of mail under this section: *Provided further*, That prior to advertising for bids for the transportation of mail by aircraft on any star route, except as authorized by the Act of October 14, 1940 (54 Stat. 1175), entitled 'An Act authorizing special arrangements in the transportation of mail within the Territory of Alaska,' the Postmaster General shall obtain from the Civil Aeronautics Board a certification that the proposed route does not conflict with the development of air transportation as contemplated under the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, as amended: *Provided further*, That any such contract made under authority of this section shall be canceled upon the issuance by the Civil Aeronautics Board of an authorization under title IV of the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, as amended, to any air carrier to engage in the transportation of mail by aircraft between any of the points named in such contract: *And provided further*, That no bid for a contract under this section shall be considered unless the bidder is a resident of or qualified to do business as a common carrier by air in a State within which one or more points to be served under such proposed contract are located. As used in this section, the term 'State' includes the several States, the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii, and the District of Columbia.

Laws, etc., applicable to contracts.

Nonapplicability.

52 Stat. 987.  
49 U. S. C. §§ 481-496; Supp. II, § 481 note.  
52 Stat. 1000.  
49 U. S. C. §§ 487-489, 492-494, 496.  
39 U. S. C. §§ 488a, 488b.

52 Stat. 973.  
49 U. S. C. § 401 et seq.; Supp. II, § 401 et seq.  
*Ante*, pp. 480, 678.  
Cancellation of contract.

Requirements of bidder.

"State."

Publication in Federal Register.

"(b) Upon receipt of a request from the Postmaster General for the certification required in subsection (a) above, the Civil Aeronautics Board shall promptly publish in the Federal Register, and send to such persons as the Board may by regulation determine, a