

# THE CODE OF THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OF A GENERAL AND PERMANENT CHARACTER IN FORCE DECEMBER SEVENTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE, CONSOLIDATED, CODIFIED, SET FORTH, AND PUBLISHED IN NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX, IN THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC, AT ITS FIRST SESSION, BY THE

## SIXTY-NINTH CONGRESS

### AN ACT

To consolidate, codify, and set forth the general and permanent laws of the United States in force December seventh, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the fifty titles hereinafter set forth are intended to embrace the laws of the United States, general and permanent in their nature, in force on the 7th day of December, 1925, compiled into a single volume under the authority of Congress, and designated "The Code of the Laws of the United States of America."*

SEC. 2. In all courts, tribunals, and public offices of the United States, at home or abroad, of the District of Columbia, and of each State, Territory, or insular possession of the United States—

(a) The matter set forth in the Code, evidenced as hereinafter in this section provided, shall establish prima facie the laws of the United States, general and permanent in their nature, in force on the 7th day of December, 1925; but nothing in this Act shall be construed as repealing or amending any such law, or as enacting as new law any matter contained in the Code. In case of any inconsistency arising through omission or otherwise between the provisions of any section of this Code and the corresponding portion of legislation heretofore enacted effect shall be given for all purposes whatsoever to such enactments.

(b) Copies of this Act printed at the Government Printing Office and bearing its imprint shall be conclusive evidence of the original of the Code in the custody of the Secretary of State.

(c) The Code may be cited as "U. S. C."

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### TITLE 1.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

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#### Chapter 1.—RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

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**Section 1. Words importing singular number, masculine gender, etc.; extended application.**—In determining the meaning of any Act or resolution of Congress, words importing the singular number may extend and be applied to several persons or things; words importing the plural number may include the singular; words importing the masculine gender may be applied to females; the words "insane person" and "lunatic" shall include every idiot, non compos, lunatic, and insane person; the word "person" may extend and be applied to partnerships and corporations, and the reference to any officer shall include any person authorized by law to perform the duties of such office, unless the context shows that such words were intended to be used in a more limited sense; and a requirement of an "oath"

shall be deemed complied with by making affirmation in judicial form. (R. S. § 1.)

**2. "County" as including "parish," etc.**—The word "county" includes a parish, or any other equivalent subdivision of a State or Territory of the United States. (R. S. § 2.)

**3. "Vessel" as including all means of water transportation.**—The word "vessel" includes every description of water craft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water. (R. S. § 3.)

**4. "Vehicle" as including all means of land transportation.**—The word "vehicle" includes every description of carriage or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on land. (R. S. § 4.)

**5. "Company" and "association" as including successors and assigns.**—The word "company" or "association," when used in reference to a corporation, shall be deemed to embrace the words "successors and assigns of such company or association," in like manner as if these last-named words, or words of similar import, were expressed. (R. S. § 5.)

**Chapter 2.—ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONGRESS; FORMALITIES OF ENACTMENT; REPEALS; SEALING OF INSTRUMENTS.**

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30. Pamphlet copies of Acts and Statutes at Large; contents; admissibility in evidence.
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**Section 21. Enacting clause.**—The enacting clause of all Acts of Congress shall be in the following form: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled." (R. S. § 7.)

**22. Resolving clause.**—The resolving clause of all joint resolutions shall be in the following form: "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled." (R. S. § 8.)

**23. Enacting or resolving words after first section.**—No enacting or resolving words shall be used in any section of an Act or resolution of Congress except in the first. (R. S. § 9.)

**24. Numbering of sections; single proposition.**—Each section shall be numbered, and shall contain, as nearly as may be, a single proposition of enactment. (R. S. § 10.)

**25. Title of appropriation Acts.**—The style and title of all Acts making appropriations for the support of Government shall be as follows: "An Act making appropriations (here insert the object) for the year ending June 30 (here insert the calendar year)." (R. S. § 11.)

**26. Printing bills and joint resolutions.**—Every bill or joint resolution in each House of Congress shall, when such bill or resolution passes either House, be printed, and such printed copy shall be called the engrossed bill or resolution as the case may be. Said engrossed bill or resolution shall be signed by the Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate, and shall be sent to the other House, and in that form shall be dealt with by that House, and its officers and, if passed, returned signed by said Clerk or Secretary. When such bill, or joint resolution

shall have passed both Houses, it shall be printed and shall then be called the enrolled bill, or joint resolution as the case may be, and shall be signed by the presiding officers of both Houses and sent to the President of the United States. During the last six days of a session such engrossing and enrolling of bills and joint resolutions may be done otherwise than as above prescribed, upon the order of Congress by concurrent resolution. (Nov. 1, 1893, 28 Stat. Appendix 5; Mar. 2, 1895, c. 177, § 1, 28 Stat. 769.)

**27. Parchment or paper for printing enrolled bills or resolutions.**—Enrolled bills and resolutions of either House of Congress shall be printed on parchment or paper of suitable quality as shall be determined by the Joint Committee on Printing. (Mar. 6, 1920, c. 94, § 1, 41 Stat. 520.)

**28. Effect of repeal of repealing Act.**—Whenever an Act is repealed, which repealed a former Act, such former Act shall not thereby be revived, unless it shall be expressly so provided. (R. S. § 12.)

**29. Repeal of statutes as affecting existing liabilities.**—The repeal of any statute shall not have the effect to release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under such statute, unless the repealing Act shall so expressly provide, and such statute shall be treated as still remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any proper action or prosecution for the enforcement of such penalty, forfeiture, or liability. (R. S. § 13.)

**30. Pamphlet copies of Acts and Statutes at Large; contents; admissibility in evidence.**—The pamphlet copies of the statutes and the bound copies of the Acts of each Congress shall be legal evidence of the laws and treaties therein contained in all the courts of the United States and of the several States therein. The said pamphlet and the Statutes at Large shall contain all laws, joint and concurrent resolutions passed by Congress, and also all conventions, treaties, proclamations, and agreements. (Jan. 12, 1895, c. 23, § 73, 28 Stat. 615.)

**31. Sealing of instruments.**—In all cases where a seal is necessary by law to any commission, process, or other instrument provided for by the laws of Congress, it shall be lawful to affix the proper seal by making an impression therewith directly on the paper to which such seal is necessary; which shall be as valid as if made on wax or other adhesive substance. (R. S. § 6.)