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or bill in the nature of interpleader in the same court or in any other United States District Court against the plaintiff in such action at law and one or more other adverse claimants, under the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection or any other provision of the Judicial Code and the rules of court made pursuant thereto. The defendant may join as parties to such equitable defense any claimant or claimants who are not already parties to such action at law. The district court in which such equitable defense is interposed shall thereby possess the powers conferred upon district courts by paragraphs (c) and (d) of this subsection and by section 274b of the Judicial Code."

Provisions repealed.

SEC. 2. The Act entitled "An Act authorizing casualty companies, surety companies, insurance companies or associations or fraternal or beneficial societies to file bills of interpleader", approved May 8, 1926 (U. S. C., Supp. III, title 28, sec. 41 (26)), is hereby repealed. Said repeal shall not affect any act done or any right, accruing or accrued in any suit or proceeding had or commenced under said Act hereby repealed, prior to the passage of this Act, but all such acts or rights, suits or proceedings shall continue and be valid and may be prosecuted and enforced in the same manner as if said Act had not been repealed hereby.

Vol. 44, p. 416.
U. S. C., p. 1231.

Existing rights protected.

Approved, January 20, 1936.

[CHAPTER 21.]

JOINT RESOLUTION

January 21, 1936.
[S. J. Res. 144.]
[Pub. Res., No. 68.]

To provide for the payment of compensation and expenses of the Railroad Retirement Board as established and operated pursuant to section 9 of the Railroad Retirement Act of June 27, 1934, and to provide for the winding up of its affairs and the disposition of its property and records, and to make an appropriation for such purposes.

Railroad Retirement Board.
Preamble.

Whereas the Railroad Retirement Board was established and organized as an independent agency in the executive branch of the Government by and pursuant to section 9 of the Railroad Retirement Act, which Act has been held by the Supreme Court of the United States to be invalid; and

Whereas the Railroad Retirement Board in the performance of its duties has acquired valuable data, records, information, and experience which should be utilized in determining the policy of Congress regarding the subjects of employment by railroads and the retirement of employees of railroads; and

Whereas the Board has records of individual employments which are of great value and should be preserved, and has, in the course of its work, received valuable records and documents which must be returned to their owners after the information contained therein shall have been noted and photostatic copies where necessary, shall have been made: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Railroad Retirement Board as established in section 9 of the Railroad Retirement Act (Public, Numbered 485, Seventy-third Congress) and the appointment and compensation of its members and the employment and compensation of its staff are hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed to all intents and purposes as if the provisions of section 9 relating thereto had on the day of their enactment been enacted as a statute distinct and separate from any other provisions of the Railroad Retirement Act, aforesaid; and no member of the Board or of its staff shall be liable for any action heretofore taken within the terms of the authority sought to be granted by the Railroad Retirement Act.

Appointment, pay, etc., confirmed.
Vol. 48, p. 1287.
U. S. C., p. 1973.

Board members, etc., liability.

Liquidation period; disposition of property and records.

SEC. 2. The Railroad Retirement Board as established by and pursuant to section 9 of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 1 hereof is hereby continued for a period of sixty days from the enactment hereof for the purpose of liquidating its affairs; returning documents in its possession to those from whom they were procured and whose property they are, after recording therefrom such information as in its judgment should be preserved or making photostatic copies thereof, where necessary; arranging for turning over the records, papers, and property of the Board to such agency as the President shall designate; and making a report upon its activities and experience to the President for transmission to Congress.

Report.

Maintenance of facilities; personnel, etc.

SEC. 3. The Board shall maintain such offices, use such equipment, furnishings, supplies, services, and facilities and employ such persons as in its judgment may be necessary for the proper discharge of its duties.

Appropriation authorized.

SEC. 4. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $35,000 to pay to the Board and its employees for services heretofore rendered on, prior to, and subsequent to May 6, 1935, and for services to be rendered during the next sixty days after the enactment hereof, the compensation to which they would have been entitled for such services if the Railroad Retirement Act had been held constitutional, and to pay any expenses heretofore incurred and not yet paid and the expenses necessary in carrying out this joint resolution.

Ante, p. 575.

Refunds.

SEC. 5. The Board is hereby authorized and directed to refund to its past and present employees and to its members, all compensation earned by them but withheld as employee contributions to the railroad retirement fund, and deposited to the credit of said fund in the Treasury, and said fund is hereby appropriated and made available for such refundments accordingly.

Approved, January 21, 1936.

[CHAPTER 25.]

January 22, 1936.
[S. 1336.]
[Public, No. 423.]

AN ACT

To amend paragraph (f) of section 4 of the Communications Act of 1934.

Communications Act of 1934, amendment.
Vol. 48, p. 1067.
U. S. C., p. 2083.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That paragraph (f) of section 4 of the Communications Act, 1934, is hereby amended by adding after the words " a chief engineer and not more than three assistants ", the words " a chief accountant and not more than three assistants ", and by adding after the words " and the chief engineer ", the words " and the chief accountant ", and by adding after the word " engineers " the word " accountants "; so that paragraph (f) of section 4, as amended, will read as follows:

Federal Communications Commission.
Appointment of chief accountant and assistants.

" (f) Without regard to the civil-service laws or the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, (1) the Commission may appoint and prescribe the duties and fix the salaries of a secretary, a director for each division, a chief engineer and not more than three assistants, a chief accountant and not more than three assistants, a general counsel and not more than three assistants, and temporary counsel designated by the Commission for the performance of special services; and (2) each commissioner may appoint and prescribe the duties of a secretary at an annual salary not to exceed $4,000. The general counsel and the chief engineer and the chief accountant shall each receive an annual salary of not to exceed $9,000; the secretary shall receive an annual salary of not to exceed $7,500; the director of each division shall receive an annual salary of not to exceed $7,500; and