

Proviso.
 Death compensa-
 tion.

Local payments of
 initial compensation.

Application to
 Puerto Rican citi-
 zens.

any class or classes of such noncitizen employees, who sustain injury outside of the United States: *Provided*, That the Commission may in its discretion establish a minimum monthly pay on which death compensation shall be computed in the case of any class or classes of such noncitizen employees. The Commission is further authorized, in its discretion, to arrange and provide for the making of initial payments of compensation and the initial furnishing of other benefits provided in this Act in the cases of employees injured outside of the United States, by any officer or agent of the United States designated by the Commission for such purpose in the locality in which the employee was employed or the injury occurred. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply also in the cases of citizens of Puerto Rico, except those citizens of the United States who by residence have acquired or shall acquire citizenship in Puerto Rico under the provisions of section 733 (a) of title 48, United States Code."

Approved, July 29, 1942.

[CHAPTER 534]

AN ACT

To grant a preference right to certain oil and gas lessees.

July 29, 1942
 [H. R. 6071]
 [Public Law 686]

Oil and gas leases.
 Preference right to
 record title holder.

30 U. S. C. §§ 223,
 223a, 226, 236a.
 41 Stat. 437.

41 Stat. 443.
 30 U. S. C. § 226.

Lands excluded.

Settlement of ac-
 crued rental claims.

41 Stat. 441.
 30 U. S. C. § 221
 note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That upon the expiration of the five-year term of any noncompetitive oil and gas lease issued pursuant to the provisions of the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 674), amending the Act of February 25, 1920, and maintained in accordance with the applicable statutory requirements and regulations, the record title holder shall be entitled to a preference right over others to a new lease for the same land pursuant to the provisions of section 17 of the Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, and under such rules and regulations as are then in force, if he shall file an application therefor within ninety days prior to the date of the expiration of the lease. The preference right herein granted shall not apply to lands which on the date of the expiration of a lease are within the known geologic structure of a producing oil or gas field.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make a compromise settlement of any claim for accrued rental under a lease issued pursuant to the provisions of section 13 of such Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, in any case in which he determines that it would be financially beneficial to the United States to make such a compromise settlement or in any case in which he determines that collection of the full amount of such accrued rental from the lessee is inadvisable because of the lessee's financial resources being limited.

Approved, July 29, 1942.

[CHAPTER 536]

AN ACT

To amend the Canal Zone Code.

July 29, 1942
 [H. R. 7188]
 [Public Law 687]

Canal Zone Code,
 amendments.

Automatic retire-
 ment.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second paragraph of section 92 of title 2 of the Canal Zone Code, approved June 19, 1934, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"On and after July 1, 1932, no employee to whom this article applies who shall have reached the retirement age prescribed for automatic separation from the service, shall be continued in such