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thereof, and was validly initiated under State law prior to the initiation or authorization of the Federal program or project which causes such impairment.

(b) As used in this section—

"Beneficial consumptive uses." *Ante*, p. 87.

(1) "beneficial consumptive uses" has the same meaning as when used in the compact consented to by Congress by this Act; and

"Basin."

(2) "Basin" refers to the Republican River Basin as shown on the map attached to and made a part of the original of such compact deposited in the archives of the Department of State.

Approved May 26, 1943.

[CHAPTER 105]

AN ACT

May 26, 1943
[H. R. 2581]
[Public Law 61]

Authorizing the acquisition and conversion or construction of certain landing craft and district craft for the United States Navy, and for other purposes.

Navy.
Landing craft and district craft.
Post, p. 604.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized to acquire and convert or to undertake the construction of one million tons of landing craft and district craft of such size, type, and design as he may consider necessary and best suited for the conduct of amphibious operations, for service to the fleet and shore-based forces, and for naval districts, stations, bases, and operating areas at home and abroad, such craft to be in addition to all auxiliary vessels or craft heretofore authorized.

Appropriation authorized.
Post, p. 209.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

Approved May 26, 1943.

[CHAPTER 107]

AN ACT

May 29, 1943
[H. R. 328]
[Public Law 62]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, because of military operations, to defer or waive payments under nonmineral leases of public lands in Alaska.

Alaska, public lands.
Waiver of payments under nonmineral leases.

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, in his discretion, may defer or waive all or part of any payment, due or to become due to the United States, under any nonmineral lease of public lands in the Territory of Alaska for any period occurring prior to the end of six months after the termination of hostilities in the present war as proclaimed by the President, or such earlier date as the Congress by concurrent resolution may prescribe, upon a proper showing by the lessee that normal activities on the leasehold have not been or are not possible during such period and that he has sustained loss because of orders issued by the armed services of the United States or because the leased land is in or adjacent to a zone of military operations.

Refunds.

SEC. 2. Upon application by a lessee under such a lease who has made a payment prior to the date of the approval of this Act, and upon a proper showing by him as required in section 1 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in his discretion, may refund all or part of such payment or allow it to be set off against future payments under the lease.

Approved May 29, 1943.