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Virgin Islands.

Guard of the State or Territory or Puerto Rico or the Canal Zone concerned is in active Federal service: *Provided*, That under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe for the organization, standards of training, instruction, and discipline, the organization by and maintenance within the Virgin Islands of the United States of such military forces as may be provided by the laws of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands is hereby authorized: *Provided further*, That such forces shall not be called, ordered, or in any manner drafted, as such, into the military services of the United States; however, no person shall, by reason of his membership in any such unit, be exempted from military service under any Federal law: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of War is authorized in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe to use appropriations for the Military Establishment for any expenses of the United States incident to the training of the military forces authorized by this subsection except for pay, subsistence, medical care and treatment, and transportation of members of such military forces between their homes and the places of performance of such training: *And provided further*, That the Secretary of War, in his discretion and under regulations determined by him, is authorized to issue, from time to time, for the use of such military units, to any State or Territory or Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands or the Canal Zone, upon requisition of the Governor thereof, such arms, ammunition, clothing, and equipment as he deems necessary. The provisions of this subsection shall terminate upon the expiration of six months after the termination of the present war, or at such earlier time as the Congress by concurrent resolution, or the President by proclamation, may designate."

Forces not subject to U. S. military call.

Use of appropriations for U. S. expenses incident to training.

Arms and equipment.

Termination of provisions.

Approved June 26, 1944.

[CHAPTER 280]

June 26, 1944
[S. 1232]
[Public Law 357]

AN ACT

To provide equitable compensation for useful suggestions or inventions by personnel of the Department of the Interior.

Department of the Interior.
Cash rewards for suggestions or inventions.

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 pay cash rewards, subject to such regulations as he shall prescribe, to officers and employees of the Department of the Interior, who, in the course of their employment, and subsequent to November 17, 1942, make suggestions or inventions which are of such a nature that their adoption would result in improved technological or scientific processes or methods, or in improvements in the administration or operations of the Department of Interior. The amount expended for the payment of such rewards during any one fiscal year shall not exceed $20,000 in the aggregate and shall not exceed $1,000 to any one person, unless a greater amount is specifically appropriated for a named person in an exceptionally meritorious case. For the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to set up in the Department a Board of Awards, the proceedings of which shall be available to the public. Nothing in this Act shall be taken or construed as amending or modifying the present patent and trade-mark laws as they now exist or may hereafter be amended.

Restriction on payments.

Board of Awards.

Approved June 26, 1944.