

United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized to undertake the construction of, or to acquire and convert, not to exceed sixteen thousand tons of modern naval vessels in the combatant category, divided into the following subcategories:

- (a) Mine warfare vessels, four thousand tons; and
- (b) Patrol vessels, twelve thousand tons.

To the extent that any ships authorized under this Act are constructed in private shipyards, such contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder insofar as national security requirements will permit and such award is practical, and is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Armed Services Procurement Act of 1947 or the Act of March 27, 1934 (ch. 95, 48 Stat. 503), as amended.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the construction, or for the acquisition and conversion, of the foregoing vessels.

SEC. 3. The Act of August 8, 1950 (64 Stat. 420), is hereby amended by deleting “\$350,000,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$450,000,000”.

Approved July 29, 1954.

Public Law 549

CHAPTER 614

AN ACT

To reenact the authority for the appointment of certain officers of the Regular Navy and Marine Corps.

Naval vessels.
 Construction,
 etc.

34 USC 494-497.

Appropriation.

34 USC 498m.

July 29, 1954
 [H. R. 6725]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections 5 (a) and 5 (c) of the Act of April 18, 1946 (60 Stat. 92), as amended (34 U. S. C. 15), are hereby reenacted and amended so as to extend the authority granted therein to July 1, 1955, and by deleting in the first sentence of section 5 (a) the words “in the Regular Navy and Marine Corps, respectively.” and inserting in lieu thereof the words “not above lieutenant in the Regular Navy and captain in the Regular Marine Corps.”.

Navy and Marine
 Corps.
 Appointment of
 officers.
 Time extension.

SEC. 2. A person permanently appointed in the Regular Navy or Regular Marine Corps, under the authority of this Act, may also be temporarily appointed to a higher grade appropriate to the lineal position assigned, and such temporary appointment shall be regarded as having been effected pursuant to the law under which officers of the Regular Navy and Regular Marine Corps having comparable lineal position were temporarily appointed to such higher grade.

Temporary
 grade.

Approved July 29, 1954.

Public Law 550

CHAPTER 615

AN ACT

Authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey certain property to the Armory Board, State of Utah.

July 29, 1954
 [S. 3561]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is authorized and directed to convey, without monetary consideration and subject to the conditions in section 2 of this Act, to the Armory Board, State of Utah, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a tract of thirty-five acres of land, more or less, situated in the western end of the Veterans'

Armory Board,
 Utah.

Conveyance.