of such land or interest, and any such sale of any such land or interest shall be made only after the Secretary has received an application for the reconveyance of such land or interest from such former owner, in such form as he shall by regulation prescribe. Such application shall be made within a period of ninety days following the date of issuance of such notice, but on good cause the Secretary may waive this requirement.

(c) Any reconveyance of land or interest therein made under this Act shall be subject to such exceptions, restrictions, and reservations (including a reservation to the United States of flowage rights) as the Secretary may determine are in the public interest.

(d) Any land or interest therein reconveyed under this Act shall be sold for an amount determined by the Secretary to be equal to the price for which the land was acquired by the United States, adjusted to reflect (1) any increase in the value thereof resulting from improvements made thereon by the United States (the Government shall receive no payment as a result of any enhancement of values resulting from the construction of the Demopolis Lock and Dam project), or (2) any decrease in the value thereof resulting from (A) any reservation, exception, restriction, and condition to which the reconveyance is made subject, and (B) any damage to the land or interest therein caused by the United States. In addition, the cost of any surveys necessary as an incident of such reconveyance shall be borne by the grantee.

(e) The requirements of this section shall not be applicable with respect to the disposition of any land, or interest therein, described in subsection (a) if the Secretary shall certify that notice has been given to the former owner of such land or interest as provided in subsection (b) and that no qualified applicant has made timely application for the reconveyance of such land or interest.

(f) As used in this section, the term "former owner" means the person from whom any land, or interest therein, was acquired by the United States, or if such person is deceased, his spouse, or if such spouse is deceased, his children.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Army may delegate any authority conferred upon him by this Act to any officer or employee of the Department of the Army. Any such officer or employee shall exercise the authority so delegated under rules and regulations approved by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. Any proceeds from sales made under this Act shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts.

SEC. 4. This Act shall terminate three years after the date of its enactment. Termination date.

Approved August 9, 1955.

Public Law 313 CHAPTER 673

AN ACT

August 9, 1955
[H. R. 6585]

To amend the Act entitled "An Act to establish a code of law for the District of Columbia", approved March 3, 1901, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 927 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a code of law for the District of Columbia", approved March 3, 1901, as amended (sec. 24–301, D. C. Code, 1951 edition), is amended to read as follows:

D. C. insane criminals.
59 Stat. 311.

"SEC. 927. (a) Whenever a person is arrested, indicted, charged by information, or is charged in the juvenile court of the District of

Columbia, for or with an offense and, prior to the imposition of sentence or prior to the expiration of any period of probation, it shall appear to the court from the court's own observations, or from prima facie evidence submitted to the court, that the accused is of unsound mind or is mentally incompetent so as to be unable to understand the proceedings against him or properly to assist in his own defense, the court may order the accused committed to the District of Columbia General Hospital or other mental hospital designated by the court, for such reasonable period as the court may determine for examination and observation and for care and treatment if such is necessary by the psychiatric staff of said hospital. If, after such examination and observation, the superintendent of the hospital, in the case of a mental hospital, or the chief psychiatrist of the District of Columbia General Hospital, in the case of District of Columbia General Hospital, shall report that in his opinion the accused is of unsound mind or mentally incompetent, such report shall be sufficient to authorize the court to commit by order the accused to a hospital for the mentally ill unless the accused or the Government objects, in which event, the court, after hearing without a jury, shall make a judicial determination of the competency of the accused to stand trial. If the court shall find the accused to be then of unsound mind or mentally incompetent to stand trial, the court shall order the accused confined to a hospital for the mentally ill.

"(b) Whenever an accused person confined to a hospital for the mentally ill is restored to mental competency in the opinion of the superintendent of said hospital, the superintendent shall certify such fact to the clerk of the court in which the indictment, information, or charge against the accused is pending and such certification shall be sufficient to authorize the court to enter an order thereon adjudicating him to be competent to stand trial, unless the accused or the Government objects, in which event, the court, after hearing without a jury, shall make a judicial determination of the competency of the accused to stand trial.

"(c) When any person tried upon an indictment or information for an offense, or tried in the juvenile court of the District of Columbia for an offense, is acquitted solely on the ground that he was insane at the time of its commission, that fact shall be set forth by the jury in their verdict.

"(d) If any person tried upon an indictment or information for an offense, or tried in the juvenile court of the District of Columbia for an offense, is acquitted solely on the ground that he was insane at the time of its commission, the court shall order such person to be confined in a hospital for the mentally ill.

"(e) Where any person has been confined in a hospital for the mentally ill pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and the superintendent of such hospital certifies (1) that such person has recovered his sanity, (2) that, in the opinion of the superintendent, such person will not in the reasonable future be dangerous to himself or others, and (3) in the opinion of the superintendent, the person is entitled to his unconditional release from the hospital, and such certificate is filed with the clerk of the court in which the person was tried, and a copy thereof served on the United States Attorney or the Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia, whichever office prosecuted the accused, such certificate shall be sufficient to authorize the court to order the unconditional release of the person so confined from further hospitalization at the expiration of fifteen days from the time said certificate was filed and served as above; but the court in its discretion may, or upon objection of the United States or the District of Colum-

bia shall, after due notice, hold a hearing at which evidence as to the mental condition of the person so confined may be submitted, including the testimony of one or more psychiatrists from said hospital. The court shall weigh the evidence and, if the court finds that such person has recovered his sanity and will not in the reasonable future be dangerous to himself or others, the court shall order such person unconditionally released from further confinement in said hospital. If the court does not so find, the court shall order such person returned to said hospital. Where, in the judgment of the superintendent of such hospital, a person confined under subsection (d) above is not in such condition as to warrant his unconditional release, but is in a condition to be conditionally released under supervision, and such certificate is filed and served as above provided, such certificate shall be sufficient to authorize the court to order the release of such person under such conditions as the court shall see fit at the expiration of fifteen days from the time such certificate is filed and served pursuant to this section: *Provided*, That the provisions as to hearing prior to unconditional release shall also apply to conditional releases, and, if, after a hearing and weighing the evidence, the court shall find that the condition of such person warrants his conditional release, the court shall order his release under such conditions as the court shall see fit, or, if the court does not so find, the court shall order such person returned to such hospital.

"(f) When an accused person shall be acquitted solely on the ground of insanity and ordered confined in a hospital for the mentally ill, such person and his estate shall be charged with the expense of his support in such hospital.

"(g) Nothing herein contained shall preclude a person confined under the authority of this section from establishing his eligibility for release under the provisions of this section by a writ of habeas corpus.

"(h) The provisions of this section shall supersede in the District of Columbia the provisions of any Federal statutes or parts thereof inconsistent with this section."

SEC. 2. Section 928 of such Act approved March 3, 1901, as amended, is amended to read as follows: 31 Stat. 1340. D. C. Code 24-302.

"SEC. 928. Any person while serving sentence of any court of the District of Columbia for crime, in a District of Columbia penal institution, and who, in the opinion of the Director of the Department of Corrections of the District of Columbia, is mentally ill, shall be referred by such Director to the psychiatrist functioning under section 405 of title IV of the Act approved June 29, 1953 (67 Stat. 105; sec. 24–106, Supp. III, D. C. Code, 1951 edition), and if such psychiatrist certifies that the person is mentally ill, this shall be sufficient to authorize the Director to transfer such person to a hospital for the mentally ill to receive care and treatment during the continuance of his mental illness.".

SEC. 3. Section 929 of such Act approved March 3, 1901, as amended, is amended to read as follows: 31 Stat. 1340. D. C. Code 24-303.

"SEC. 929. (a) When any person confined in a hospital for the mentally ill, charged with crime and subject to be tried therefor, shall be found competent to stand trial in the opinion of the superintendent of such hospital, the superintendent shall certify such fact to the clerk of the court in which the indictment, information, or charge is pending, in accordance with the procedure specified in section 927 of this Act, and deliver such person to the court according to its proper precept.

"(b) When any person confined in a hospital for the mentally ill while serving sentence shall be restored to mental health within

the opinion of the superintendent of the hospital, the superintendent shall certify such fact to the Director of the Department of Corrections of the District of Columbia and such certification shall be sufficient to deliver such person to such Director according to his request."

Testimony of physicians.

SEC. 4. The Act entitled "An Act relating to the testimony of physicians in the courts of the District of Columbia", received by the President May 13, 1896 (29 Stat. 138; sec. 14–308, D. C. Code, 1951 edition), is amended to read as follows:

"That in the courts of the District of Columbia no physician or surgeon shall be permitted, without the consent of the person afflicted, or of his legal representative, to disclose any information, confidential in its nature, which he shall have acquired in attending a patient in a professional capacity and which was necessary to enable him to act in that capacity, whether such information shall have been obtained from the patient or from his family or from the person or persons in charge of him: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to evidence in criminal cases where the accused is charged with causing the death of, or inflicting injuries upon a human being, and the disclosure shall be required in the interests of public justice: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to evidence relating to the mental competency or sanity of an accused in criminal trials where the accused raises the defense of insanity, or in the pretrial or posttrial proceedings involving any criminal case where a question arises concerning the mental condition of an accused or convicted person.".

Approved August 9, 1955.

Public Law 314 — CHAPTER 674

August 9, 1955
[H. R. 4734]

AN ACT

To amend the provisions of the River and Harbor Act of 1954 which authorize the Secretary of the Army to reimburse local interests for work done on a dredging project at Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors, California, during a period ending on July 1, 1953, by extending that period to November 7, 1953.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the paragraph of section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1954 which begins "Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors, California:" is amended by striking out "July 1, 1953" and inserting in lieu thereof "November 7, 1953".

68 Stat. 1252.

Approved August 9, 1955.

Public Law 315 — CHAPTER 675

August 9, 1955
[H. R. 6727]

AN ACT

To authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey certain land to the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Milwaukee, Wis. Conveyance.

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 by quitclaim deed a parcel of land containing approximately four acres, which is presently under lease to the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the Milwaukee Water Works Menominee Valley booster station, to the city of Milwaukee, a municipal subdivision of the State of Wisconsin: *Provided*, That the city of Milwaukee pay the fair market value of the said parcel of land, without improvements, as determined