United States Merchant Marine Academy consisting of not more than seven persons of distinction in education and other fields relating to the purposes of the academy, who shall serve without pay. Members of the advisory board shall be appointed for terms of not to exceed three years and may be reappointed. The Secretary of Commerce shall, in June of each year, appoint one of the members to serve as chairman. The members so appointed shall visit the academy at least once during the academic year on the call of the chairman and may convene once each year in Washington, at the call of the Maritime Administrator, for the purpose of examining the course of instruction and the management of the academy and advising the Maritime Administrator, with a copy of such advice to the superintendent, relative thereto. The expenses of the board while engaged in these duties, including the expense of travel, shall be defrayed under Government travel regulations from any appropriation for the authorized work of the Maritime Administration."

Expenses.

Approved July 11, 1956.

Public Law 692 CHAPTER 565

AN ACT

July 11, 1956
[H. R. 8385]

To transfer certain responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior to the Public Housing Commissioner and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the authority, functions, obligations, and documents relating to Puerto Rican hurricane relief loans to individual coffee planters, coconut planters, fruitgrowers, or other agriculturists (45 Stat. 1067, and 45 Stat. 1627, as modified by 49 Stat. 926 and 49 Stat. 928), heretofore transferred to the Division of Territories and Island Possessions, Department of the Interior, pursuant to the public resolution of June 3, 1935 (49 Stat. 320), and to the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to Reorganization Plan Numbered 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), are hereby transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture. The authority of the Secretary of Agriculture described in the Act of December 20, 1944, and in section 41 (g) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended (7 U. S. C., sec. 1015 (g)), is hereby extended, as additional authority, to apply to the obligations and documents transferred by this section.

Interior.
Transfer of responsibilities relating to Puerto Rico.

58 Stat. 836.
12 USC 1150 *et seq.*

Post, p. 803.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized to sell to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico the obligations and documents transferred to him by section 1 hereof, for such consideration as may be consistent with the purposes of the resolution of Congress creating the Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief Commission.

Sale of obligations, Puerto Rico.

SEC. 3. There are hereby transferred to the Public Housing Commissioner all right, title, and interest, including contractual rights and reversionary interests, held by the Federal Government in and with respect to the apartment development in San Juan, Puerto Rico, known as the Falansterio Apartments, heretofore administered by the Secretary of the Interior. All of the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior under the private sales contract executed on July 1, 1948, by the United States, represented by the Assistant Administrator of the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, and the Cooperative Association of the Falansterio, and transferred to the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to Reorganization Plan Numbered 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), are hereby transferred to the Public Housing Commissioner. If, under the terms of the private sales contract or

Falansterio Apartments.

Public Housing Commissioner.
Powers, etc.

otherwise the Public Housing Commissioner takes possession of the Falansterio Apartments, or any part thereof, he is authorized to improve and administer the property, to release, convey, or reconvey any part thereof, and to otherwise dispose of the remaining property. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds collected by the Public Housing Commissioner under this section shall be available for expenses incurred by him hereunder.

SEC. 4. The Public Housing Commissioner is hereby authorized to sell to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, for such consideration mutually agreeable, the rights, title, and interest transferred to him by Section 3 hereof with respect to the Falansterio Apartments, and to transfer to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico the powers, duties, and responsibilities under the private sales contract executed on July 1, 1948, mentioned in Section 3 hereof.

Funds for administration.

SEC. 5. Any funds collected by the Secretary of Agriculture under sections 1 and 2 hereof, may be credited to appropriations current at the time such funds are received, to the extent necessary to reimburse such appropriation for expenditures required in the administration of this Act.

Confirmation of deeds.

SEC. 6. All deeds pertaining to property of the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration executed by the Secretary of the Interior or his designees subsequent to February 15, 1955, are hereby confirmed.

Effective date.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved July 11, 1956.

Public Law 693 — CHAPTER 566

July 11, 1956
[H. R. 8552]

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to grant to the town of Chincoteague, Virginia, permanent easements on certain lands for the purpose of taking subterranean water.

Chincoteague, Va. Easements.

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 authorized to grant to the town of Chincoteague, Virginia, permanent easements over any portions of the United States Naval Air Station, United States Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Accomack County, Virginia, for the construction, drilling, operation, and maintenance of water wells, together with such piping and pumping facilities, as may be necessary to permit the town of Chincoteague, Virginia, to take subterranean water from under such land for use for domestic and industrial purposes, and such easements shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Navy deems necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

Approved July 11, 1956.

Public Law 694 — CHAPTER 567

July 11, 1956
[H. R. 9769]

AN ACT

To enable the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii to authorize the city and county of Honolulu, a municipal corporation, to issue general obligation bonds.

Honolulu, Hawaii. General obligation bonds. 31 Stat. 141. 48 USC 491 note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any provision of the Hawaiian Organic Act, or any law of the Territory of Hawaii, or any Act of the Congress to the contrary notwithstanding, Acts 145, 199, 210, and 223 of the Session Laws of Hawaii, 1955, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds by the city and county