Public Law 821 CHAPTER 755

AN ACT

July 27, 1956
[H. R. 9842]

To authorize the Postmaster General to hold and detain mail for temporary periods in certain cases.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) whenever the Postmaster General shall determine during proceedings before him that in the administration of the Act of August 16, 1950 (39 U. S. C. 259a), such action is necessary to the effective enforcement of such Act, he may enter an interim order directing that mail addressed to any person be held and detained by the postmaster at the post office of delivery for a period of twenty days from the effective date of such order. Notice of such order, advising such person of the holding and detention and setting forth in specific detail the reasons therefor, together with a copy of this Act, and the aforesaid Act of August 16, 1950, shall be sent forthwith by registered or certified mail to such person at the post office at which such mail is to be held and detained. Any such order for the holding and detention of mail addressed to any person shall expire at the end of the twenty days after the issuance thereof unless the Postmaster General shall file, prior to the expiration of such twenty-day period, a petition in the United States district court for the district in which the post office in which such mail is held or detained is situated, and obtain an order directing that mail addressed to such person be held and detained for such further period as the court shall determine. Notice of the filing of any such petition shall be given forthwith by the clerk of the court in which such petition is filed to such person, at the post office at which the mail is being detained (or otherwise as the clerk of the court shall determine to be appropriate), and such person shall have five days in which to appear and show cause why such order should not issue. If, upon all the evidence before it, the court shall determine that the continued withholding and detention of mail addressed to such person is reasonable and necessary to the effective enforcement of the Act of August 16, 1950, it shall forthwith issue an order directing that mail addressed to such person be held and detained by the postmaster at the office of delivery until conclusion of the proceeding by the Postmaster General or until further order of the court. If the court shall determine, upon all the evidence before it, that the continued withholding and detention of mail addressed to such person is not reasonable or necessary in the administration of such Act, it shall dismiss the petition and order all mail addressed to such person held or detained in any post office to be released forthwith for delivery. An appeal from the order of the court shall be allowed as in civil causes. Any order of the Postmaster General or of the district court, under this Act, may be dissolved by such court at any time for cause, including failure to conduct expeditiously the proceedings instituted against such person before the Postmaster General with respect to the Act of August 16, 1950 (39 U. S. C. 259a). When, under any order herein authorized to be issued by the Postmaster General or the district court, a person's mail is detained and held by the postmaster at the office of delivery, such person shall have the right to examine said mail and receive such mail as clearly is not connected with the alleged unlawful activity.

Postal Service.
Detention of mail.

64 Stat. 451.

Notice of detention order.

Expiration date.

Jurisdiction of court.

Dissolution of order.

Right of person to examine mail.

(b) As used in this Act the term "person" means any individual, firm, corporation, company, partnership, or association.

"Person".

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Exemption.

(c) Action by the Postmaster General in issuing the interim order provided for herein and petitioning for a continuance of such order under this Act, shall not be subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (ch. 19, title 5, U. S. C.).

60 Stat. 237.
5 USC 1001 note.
Nonapplicability.

SEC. 2. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to mail addressed to publishers or distributors of publications which have entry as second-class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879, as amended (ch. 180, 20 Stat. 358; 39 U. S. C. 221, et. seq.), or to publishers or distributors of copyrighted books and other publications as to which certificate of registration of copyright has been issued under the copyright laws of the United States (title 17 U. S. C.).

61 Stat. 652.

Approved July 27, 1956.

Public Law 822 CHAPTER 756

July 27, 1956
[H. R. 8617]

AN ACT

To validate certain payments made to members and former members of the naval service.

Naval service.
Additional pay for sea service.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all payments of additional pay for sea duty made to enlisted members of the naval service who served on the United States Ship Sequoia (AG–23) from November 1, 1950, through February 28, 1954, and to those who served on vessels operating on the Great Lakes from November 1, 1950, through October 31, 1953, are hereby validated. Any such member or former member who has made repayment to the United States of any amount so paid to him as additional pay for sea duty is entitled to have refunded to him the amount repaid.

Credits in accounts.

SEC. 2. The Comptroller General of the United States, or his designee, shall relieve disbursing officers, including special disbursing agents, of the United States from accountability or responsibility for any payments described in section 1 of this Act, and shall allow credits in the settlement of the accounts of those officers or agents for payments which are found to be free from fraud and collusion.

SEC. 3. Appropriations available to the military department concerned for the pay and allowances of military personnel are available for payments under this Act.

Approved July 27, 1956.

Public Law 823 CHAPTER 757

July 27, 1956
[H. R. 2121]

AN ACT

To provide for the relief of certain members of the Armed Forces who were required to pay certain transportation charges covering shipment of their household goods and personal effects upon return from overseas, and for other purposes.

Armed Forces.
Transportation charges.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any member of the Armed Forces who was transferred to a duty station outside the continental United States or in Alaska under orders which relieved him from a duty station within the United States before July 10, 1952, and who—

(1) was transferred to any one or more other duty stations outside the continental United States or in Alaska after July 9, 1952, and before his transfer back to the United States; or