

## Public Law 885

## CHAPTER 841

## AN ACT

August 1, 1956  
[S. 2569]

To provide certain basic authority for the Department of State.

State Department.  
Passport and  
despatch agencies.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of State is authorized to establish, maintain, and operate passport and despatch agencies.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of State, when funds are appropriated therefor, may—

Printing and  
binding.

(a) provide for printing and binding outside the continental United States without regard to section 11 of the Act of March 1, 1919 (44 U. S. C. 111);

40 Stat. 1270.  
Transportation of  
household effects,  
etc.

(b) pay the cost of transportation to and from a place of storage and the cost of storing the furniture and household and personal effects of an employee of the Foreign Service who is assigned to a post at which he is unable to use his furniture and effects, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe;

(c) employ aliens, by contract, for services abroad;

(d) provide for official functions and courtesies;

(e) purchase uniforms; and

62 Stat. 983.

(f) pay tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672, as amended, of title 28 of the United States Code when such claims arise in foreign countries in connection with Department of State operations abroad.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of State is authorized to—

Insurance on  
motor vehicles.

(a) obtain insurance on official motor vehicles operated by the Department of State in foreign countries, and pay the expenses incident thereto;

(b) rent tie lines and teletype equipment;

(c) provide ice and drinking water for United States Embassies and Consulates abroad;

(d) pay excise taxes on negotiable instruments which are negotiated by the Department of State abroad;

(e) pay the actual expenses of preparing and transporting to their former homes the remains of persons, not United States Government employees, who may die away from their homes while participating in international educational exchange activities under the jurisdiction of the Department of State;

Expenses for  
seamen.

(f) pay expenses incident to the relief, protection, and burial of American seamen, and alien seamen from United States vessels in foreign countries and in the United States Territories and possessions;

(g) pay the expenses incurred in the acknowledgment of the services of officers and crews of foreign vessels and aircraft in rescuing American seamen, airmen, or citizens from shipwreck or other catastrophe abroad or at sea;

Rentals and  
leases.

(h) rent or lease, for periods of less than ten years, such offices, buildings, grounds, and living quarters for the use of the Foreign Service abroad as he may deem necessary, and make payments therefor in advance; and

(i) maintain, improve, and repair properties rented or leased pursuant to authority contained in subsection (h) of this section and furnish fuel, water, and utilities for such properties.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of State is authorized to—

Emergency ex-  
penditures.

(a) make expenditures, from such amounts as may be specifically appropriated therefor, for unforeseen emergencies arising in the diplomatic and consular service and, to the extent author-

ized in appropriation Acts, funds expended for such purposes may be accounted for in accordance with section 291 of the Revised Statutes (31 U. S. C. 107); and

(b) delegate to subordinate officials the authority vested in him by section 291 of the Revised Statutes pertaining to certification of expenditures.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of State is authorized to—

(a) provide for participation by the United States in international activities which arise from time to time in the conduct of foreign affairs for which provision has not been made by the terms of any treaty, convention, or special Act of Congress: *Provided*, That this subsection shall not be construed as granting authority to accept membership for the United States in any international organization, or to participate in the activities of any international organization for more than one year without approval by the Congress; and

Participation in international activities.

(b) pay the expenses of participation in activities in which the United States participates by authority of subsection (a) of this section, including, but not limited to the following:

(1) Employment of aliens;

(2) Travel expenses without regard to the Standardized Government Travel Regulations and to the rates of per diem allowances in lieu of subsistence expenses under the Travel Expense Act of 1949, as amended (5 U. S. C. 835–842);

63 Stat. 166.

(3) Travel expenses of persons serving without compensation in an advisory capacity while away from their homes or regular places of business not in excess of those authorized for regular officers and employees traveling in connection with said international activities; and

(4) Rental of quarters by contract or otherwise.

SEC. 6. The provisions of section 8 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended (22 U. S. C. 287e), and regulations thereunder, applicable to expenses incurred pursuant to that Act, may be applicable to the obligation and expenditure of funds in connection with United States participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization.

63 Stat. 736.

SEC. 7. The exchange allowances or proceeds derived from the exchange or sale of passenger motor vehicles in possession of the Foreign Service abroad, in accordance with section 201 (c) of the Act of June 30, 1949 (40 U. S. C. 481 (c)), shall be available without fiscal year limitation for replacement of an equal number of such vehicles.

63 Stat. 384.

SEC. 8. The Secretary of State may, when authorized in an appropriation or other law, transfer to any department, agency, or independent establishment of the Government, with the consent of the head thereof, any funds appropriated to the Department of State, for direct expenditure by such department, agency, or independent establishment for the purposes for which the funds are appropriated.

Transfer of funds.

SEC. 9. The Secretary of State is authorized to enter into contracts in foreign countries involving expenditures from funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of State, without regard to the provisions of section 3741 of the Revised Statutes (41 U. S. C. 22): *Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to waive the provisions of section 431 of title 18 of the United States Code.

Contracts in foreign countries.

SEC. 10. Appropriated funds made available to the Department of State for expenses in connection with travel of personnel outside the continental United States, including travel of dependents and transportation of personal effects, household goods, or automobiles of such personnel shall be available for such expenses when any part of such travel or transportation begins in one fiscal year pursuant to travel

62 Stat. 702.

Travel funds, availability.

orders issued in that year, notwithstanding the fact that such travel or transportation may not be completed during that same fiscal year.

50 Stat. 810.

SEC. 11. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 16 (a) of the Act of August 2, 1946 (5 U. S. C. 78 (c)), the Secretary of State may authorize any chief of diplomatic mission to approve the use of Government-owned vehicles in any foreign country for transportation of United States Government employees from their residence to the office and return when public transportation facilities are unsafe or are not available.

Per diem rates.

SEC. 12. The Secretary of State, with the approval of the Bureau of the Budget, shall prescribe the maximum rates of per diem in lieu of subsistence (or of similar allowances therefor) payable while away from their own countries to foreign participants in any exchange of persons program, or in any program of furnishing technical information and assistance, under the jurisdiction of any Government agency, and said rates may be fixed without regard to any provision of law in limitation thereof.

50 Stat. 1025.

SEC. 13. Allowances granted under section 901 (1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1946 (22 U. S. C. 1131 (1)), may include water, in addition to the utilities specified.

SEC. 14. Appropriations now or hereafter made available for allowances granted under the authority in part A of title IX of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended (22 U. S. C. 1131), including an allowance for water as authorized in section 13 of this Act shall be available for the payment of such allowances in advance.

Appropriation.

SEC. 15. Appropriations to carry out the purposes of this Act are hereby authorized. When so provided in an appropriation law, an appropriation made to the Department of State may remain available until expended.

Approved August 1, 1956.

## Public Law 886

## CHAPTER 842

### AN ACT

August 1, 1956  
[S. 4060]

To amend section 607 of the Postal Field Service Compensation Act of 1955, to include employees in the Motor Vehicle Service.

Postal Service.  
Motor Vehicle  
Service employ-  
ees.

69 Stat. 127.  
39 USC 1007.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 607 of the Postal Field Service Compensation Act of 1955 is amended by inserting after the words "Postal Transportation Service" wherever they appear therein the words "and the Motor Vehicle Service". The heading of such section is amended to read as follows: "EMPLOYEES IN THE POSTAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AND THE MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE."

SEC. 2. As used in this section in reference to employees in the Motor Vehicle Service the term "assigned to road duty" means assignment to a Motor Vehicle Service route which is not less than fifty miles in length one way.

69 Stat. 126.  
39 USC 1005.

SEC. 3. Subsection (b) of section 605 of the Postal Field Service Compensation Act of 1955 is amended by inserting after the words "Postal Transportation Service" the words "and the Motor Vehicle Service".

Approved August 1, 1956.