

## [CHAPTER 480]

## AN ACT

To authorize postmasters within the Territory of Alaska to administer oaths and affirmations, and for other purposes.

August 5, 1939  
[H. R. 6114]  
[Public, No. 294]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That each postmaster within the Territory of Alaska is hereby authorized and directed to administer oaths and affirmations and to take acknowledgments, and to make and execute certificates thereof, and to perform all other functions of a notary public within said Territory, whenever an oath, affirmation, or acknowledgment or a certificate thereof is authorized, permitted, or required by any Act or Acts of Congress.

Alaska.  
Postmasters within, authorized to perform certain notarial functions.

SEC. 2. Each certificate of oath, affirmation, or acknowledgement executed by a postmaster within the Territory of Alaska under the authority of this Act shall be signed by the postmaster, with a designation of his title as such postmaster, shall have affixed thereto the cancelation stamp of the post office, and shall state the name of the post office and the date on which such oath or affirmation is administered or such acknowledgment is taken.

Certificate, form, etc.

SEC. 3. Except as otherwise provided or required by an Act of Congress, for administering an oath or affirmation, or taking an acknowledgment, or performing any other function of a notary public within the Territory of Alaska as herein provided, the postmaster is authorized to charge and receive the fees prescribed by law for a notary public for similar services in said Territory.

Fees.

Approved, August 5, 1939.

## [CHAPTER 481]

## AN ACT

To provide for the disposition of certain records of the United States Government.

August 5, 1939  
[H. R. 6585]  
[Public, No. 295]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That whenever any agency of the United States Government has in its custody an accumulation of records that are not needed by it in the transaction of its current business and that appear to it to have no permanent value or historical interest, the head of such agency shall submit a written report thereon to the Archivist of the United States in which he shall state the location and describe the character of such records so as to enable the Archivist to identify them. Said report shall be submitted in triplicate and shall be accompanied by samples of the several kinds of records listed therein.

Government records.  
Disposition of certain, not needed in transaction of current business.

Report to Archivist.

SEC. 2. When used in this Act, the word "records" means originals or copies of motion-picture or other photographic records in any form whatsoever, sound recordings, correspondence, papers, indexes, maps, charts, plans, drawings, punch cards, tabulation sheets, pictures, and other kinds of records belonging to the United States Government.

"Records" defined.

SEC. 3. The Archivist, with the approval of the National Archives Council, shall submit to Congress, at such times as he shall deem expedient, lists of records reported to him in the manner prescribed by section 1 of this Act that appear to him to have no permanent value or historical interest to the Federal Government.

Submission of lists to Congress.

SEC. 4. Whenever the Archivist shall submit to Congress, in compliance with the provisions of section 3 of this Act, lists of records that appear to him to have no permanent value or historical interest to the Federal Government, it shall be the duty of the presiding officer of the Senate to appoint two Senators who, with the members of the

Appointment of joint Congressional committee to examine and make recommendation.

Committee on the Disposition of Executive Papers of the House of Representatives, shall constitute a joint committee, to which such lists shall be referred, and said joint committee shall meet and examine said lists and submit to the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, a report of such examination and their recommendation.

Disposition of unnecessary or useless records.

SEC. 5. If such joint committee report that any of the records described in the lists referred to them are not needed or useful in the transaction of the current business of the agency by which they were reported to the Archivist and have no permanent value or historical interest to the Federal Government, then it shall be the duty of the head of said agency to dispose of said records by one of the following methods:

Methods.

(a) By sale, upon the best obtainable terms after due publication of notice inviting proposals therefor;

(b) By causing them to be destroyed;

(c) By transfer (without cost to the United States Government) to any State or dependency of the United States of America or to any appropriate educational institution, library, museum, historical, research, or patriotic organization therein, that has made application to him therefor, through the Archivist of the United States. All moneys derived from the sale of such records shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States by said agency.

Disposition of proceeds.

Disposition, on failure of joint committee to report.

If said joint committee shall fail to make a report during any regular or special session of Congress on any list of records that has been submitted to Congress by the Archivist not less than ten days prior to the adjournment of such session, the Archivist may empower the agency by which such records were reported to him to dispose of them by any of the methods prescribed in this section.

Disposition between sessions.

If it shall appear to the Archivist that any records reported to him in the manner prescribed by section 1 of this Act, while Congress is not in session, have no permanent value or historical interest and have the same form numbers or form letters or are of the same specific kind as other records of the same agency previously authorized for disposition by Congress, he may empower said agency to make disposition of said similar records by any of the methods prescribed in this section.

Report to Congress.

The Archivist shall submit to Congress at the beginning of each session a descriptive list of all records authorized for disposition by him during the preceding recess of Congress.

Report to Archivist by head of agency making disposition.

SEC. 6. When any records of the United States Government have been disposed of in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of this Act, the head of the agency making such disposition shall submit a written report thereon to the Archivist of the United States in which he shall describe the character and volume of such records and state when and by what method the disposition thereof was accomplished. If any of the records described in a particular report are shown thereby to have been sold, such report shall give the amount of the purchase price received therefor and the total cost of effecting such sales. Said report shall also give the names and post-office addresses of all institutions, associations, or other organizations to which any records therein described have been transferred.

Summarization of data to Congress.

SEC. 7. The Archivist of the United States shall transmit to Congress, at the beginning of each regular session, a concise summarization of the data contained in the reports filed with him by heads of agencies of the Government during the preceding fiscal year in compliance with the provisions of section 6 of this Act.

Destruction of records that are a continuing menace to health.

SEC. 8. Whenever the Archivist shall determine that any records in his custody, or which have been reported to him by any agency under the terms of section 1 of this Act, are a continuing menace

to human health or life or to property, he shall cause such records to be destroyed immediately at such place and by such method as he shall select: *Provided, however,* That if said records have been transferred to his custody, he shall report the disposition thereof to the Congress and to the agency from which they were transferred.

SEC. 9. Whenever it shall appear to the Archivist that there are in his custody any records that are without permanent value or historical interest to the Federal Government he shall submit lists thereof to Congress in the manner provided by section 3 of this Act: *Provided, however,* That the Archivist shall not report to Congress, under the provisions of this section, records of any existing agency of the United States without the written consent of the said agency.

SEC. 10. The procedures herein prescribed to be followed are exclusive, and no records of the United States Government may be alienated or destroyed except by authority sought and obtained under the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. All Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved, August 5, 1939.

*Proviso.*  
Report to Congress.

Report by Archivist of records in his custody without permanent value, etc.

*Proviso.*  
Records of existing agencies.

Procedures prescribed deemed exclusive.

Repeal of inconsistent Acts.

[CHAPTER 482]

AN ACT

To permit the importation free of duty of certain literature for distribution at the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 4 of the Act entitled "An Act relating to the importation of distilled spirits for consumption at the New York World's Fair, 1939, and the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939, and to duties on certain articles to be exhibited at the New York World's Fair, 1939", approved April 29, 1939, is amended by inserting before the period at the end thereof a comma and the following: "or at the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939".

Approved, August 5, 1939.

August 5, 1939  
[H. R. 7263]  
[Public, No. 296]

Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939.  
*Ante*, p. 626.  
Tourist literature for free distribution, free entry.

[CHAPTER 483]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To approve the action of the Secretary of the Interior deferring the collection of certain irrigation construction charges against lands under the San Carlos and Flathead Indian irrigation projects.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in accordance with the Act of June 22, 1936, the action of the Secretary of the Interior in deferring such charges under said irrigation projects is hereby approved.

Approved, August 5, 1939.

August 5, 1939  
[H. J. Res. 264]  
[Pub. Res., No. 40]

San Carlos and Flathead Indian irrigation projects, deferment of construction charges.  
49 Stat. 1803.  
25 U. S. C., Supp. IV, §§ 389-389e.

[CHAPTER 493]

AN ACT

To legalize a free highway bridge now being constructed across the Des Moines River, at Levy, Iowa.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the consent of Congress is hereby granted to the Iowa State Highway Commission to complete construction of a free highway bridge and approaches

August 5, 1939  
[S. 2563]  
[Public, No. 297]

Des Moines River. Bridge across, at Levy, Iowa, legalized.