

1943" in each place where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof "July 1, 1944".

SEC. 2. The first sentence of section 2 (a) of such Act as amended, is amended by striking out "1943" and inserting in lieu thereof "1944".

Approved March 23, 1943.

49 Stat. 1187; 55 Stat. 364.  
12 U. S. C., Supp. II, § 1703 (a).  
*Post*, p. 571.

[CHAPTER 22]

AN ACT

To amend title I of Public Law Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress, March 20, 1933, and the Veterans Regulations to provide for rehabilitation of disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

March 24, 1943  
[S. 786]  
[Public Law 16]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 1, title I, Public, Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress, approved March 20, 1933, be amended by adding at the end thereof a new subsection known as subsection (f) and to read as follows:

Rehabilitation of veterans disabled in present war.  
48 Stat. 8.  
38 U. S. C. § 701.  
*Post*, p. 554.

"(f) Any person who served in the active military or naval forces on or after December 7, 1941, and prior to the termination of hostilities in the present war shall be entitled to vocational rehabilitation, subject to the provisions and limitations of Veterans Regulation Numbered 1 (a), as amended, part VII."

*Infra*.

SEC. 2. Veterans Regulation Numbered 1 (a), as amended, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof a new part to be known as part VII and to provide as follows:

38 U. S. C. note foll. § 724; Supp. II, note foll. § 726.

"PART VII

"1. Any person who served in the active military or naval service at any time after December 6, 1941, and prior to the termination of the present war, who is honorably discharged therefrom, and who has a disability incurred in or aggravated by such service for which pension is payable under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration, or would be but for receipt of retirement pay, and is in need of vocational rehabilitation to overcome the handicap of such disability, shall be entitled to such vocational rehabilitation as may be prescribed by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to fit him for employment consistent with the degree of disablement: *Provided*, That no course of training in excess of a period of four years shall be approved nor shall any training under this part be afforded beyond six years after the termination of the present war.

Eligibility.

"2. The Administrator shall have the power and duty to prescribe and provide suitable training to persons included in paragraph 1, and for such purposes may employ such additional personnel and experts as are deemed necessary, and may utilize and extend existing Veterans' Administration facilities and utilize those of any other governmental agency as well as those maintained by joint Federal and State contribution; and, in addition, he may, by agreement or contract with public or private institutions or establishments, provide for such additional training facilities as may be suitable and necessary to accomplish the purposes of this part.

Training period

Provision of suitable training.

Personnel and facilities.

"3. While pursuing training prescribed herein, and for two months after his or her employability is determined, each veteran, if entitled to pension in an amount less than the amount payable in accordance with the compensation rates for total and temporary disability, including additional amounts for wife, husband, child, or children and dependent parents, provided by section 202, World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended (U. S. C., title 38, sec. 475), shall be paid increased pension which when added to the amount of pension to

Pension rates during training.

43 Stat. 618.

Pay for training on job by an employer.

Effect on pension.

Benefits for injury incurred in training.

Purpose.

Placement in gainful employment.

Rules and regulations.

Penalties.

Leaves of absence.

Status during absence.

Appropriation authorized for advancements.  
*Post*, p. 434.

which he is otherwise entitled will aggregate an amount equal to such rates: *Provided*, That when the course of vocational rehabilitation furnished to any person as herein provided consists of training on the job by an employer, such employer shall be required to submit monthly to the Administrator a statement under oath showing any wage, compensation, or other income paid by him to such person during the month, directly or indirectly, and based upon such sworn statements, the Administrator is authorized to reduce the pension of such person to an amount considered equitable and just, but not below the amount of pension or retirement pay to which he would be entitled for service-connected disability if not following a course of vocational rehabilitation.

"4. Where any person while following a course of vocational rehabilitation as provided for in this part suffers an injury or an aggravation of any injury, as a result of the pursuit of such course of vocational rehabilitation, and not the result of his or her own willful misconduct, and such injury or aggravation results in additional disability to or death of such person, the benefits under laws applicable to veterans of the present war shall be awarded in the same manner and extent as if such disability, aggravation, or death were service-connected within the meaning of such laws; except that no benefits under this paragraph shall be awarded unless application be made therefor within two years after such injury or aggravation was suffered, or such death occurred.

"5. The purpose of rehabilitation is to restore employability lost by virtue of a handicap due to service-incurred disability. The Administrator shall have the power and duty to cooperate with and employ the facilities of other governmental and State employment agencies for the purpose of placing in gainful employment persons trained under the provisions of this part.

"6. The Administrator is hereby authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary in order to promote good conduct and cooperation on the part of persons who are following courses of vocational rehabilitation provided by this part. Penalties for the breach of such rules and regulations may, with the approval of the Administrator, extend to a forfeiture by the offender for a period of three months of such portion of the pension herein provided as will leave him not less than the amount of the monthly pension or retirement pay to which such person is entitled for service-connected disability, and such penalties may also extend to permanent discontinuance of all further benefits of this part.

"7. The Administrator is hereby authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the granting of leaves of absence to those following courses of vocational rehabilitation provided by this part where in his opinion such leaves do not materially interfere with the pursuit of such courses. Such leaves of absence shall not in the case of any person be granted in excess of thirty days in any consecutive twelve months except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Administrator: *Provided*, That during leave of absence under this paragraph such person shall be considered to be pursuing his course of vocational rehabilitation under this part.

"8. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, available immediately and until expended, the sum of \$500,000 to be utilized by the Veterans' Administration under such rules and regulations as the Administrator may prescribe, as a revolving fund for the purpose of making advancements not exceeding \$100 in any case, to persons commencing or undertaking courses of vocational rehabilitation under this part, and advancement to bear

no interest and to be reimbursed in such installments as may be determined by the Administrator by proper deductions from any future payments of pension or retirement pay.

"9. The Administrator shall have the power to provide courses of instruction for personnel and may detail employees to attend the same and may detail any such personnel to attend courses conducted by other than Veterans' Administration agencies, including private organizations, and such employees in addition to their salaries shall be entitled to the payment of expenses incident to such detail, including transportation and tuition, as the Administrator by rules and regulations shall provide; and also in his discretion, to make, or, as by agreement with other agency or institution, cause to be made studies, investigations, and reports inquiring into the rehabilitation of disabled persons and the relative abilities, aptitudes, and capacities of the several groups of the variously handicapped and as to how their potentialities can best be developed and their services best utilized in gainful and suitable employment, including the rehabilitation programs of foreign nations engaged in the present war. For this purpose he shall have the power to cooperate with such public and private agencies as he may deem advisable and to call in consultants who shall receive as compensation for their services a reasonable per diem, which the Administrator shall by rules and regulations provide, for each day actually spent in the work provided for herein and shall in addition be reimbursed for their necessary traveling and other expenses. For the purposes of this part, the Administrator may accept uncompensated services upon such agreement as he may deem feasible."

SEC. 3. The appropriations for the Veterans' Administration, "Salaries and expenses, medical and hospital, and compensation and pensions", shall be available for necessary expenses, including but not confined to necessary medical care, and pension payment, payment or reimbursement of expenses in connection with supplying suitable training under this Act; and there is hereby authorized to be appropriated such additional amount or amounts as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

Approved March 24, 1943.

Instruction for personnel.

Expenses.

Studies, investigations, and reports.

Cooperation with other agencies.

Uncompensated services.

Funds available.

Additional appropriation authorized.

[CHAPTER 26]

AN ACT

To amend and clarify certain provisions of law relating to functions of the War Shipping Administration, and for other purposes.

March 24, 1943

[H. R. 133]

[Public Law 17]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That (a) officers and members of crews (hereinafter referred to as "seamen") employed on United States or foreign flag vessels as employees of the United States through the War Shipping Administration shall, with respect to (1) laws administered by the Public Health Service and the Social Security Act, as amended by subsection (b) (2) and (3) of this section; (2) death, injuries, illness, maintenance and cure, loss of effects, detention, or repatriation, or claims arising therefrom not covered by the foregoing clause (1); and (3) collection of wages and bonuses and making of allotments, have all of the rights, benefits, exemptions, privileges, and liabilities, under law applicable to citizens of the United States employed as seamen on privately owned and operated American vessels. Such seamen, because of the temporary wartime character of their employment by the War Shipping Administration, shall not be considered as officers or employees of the United

War Shipping Administration. Rights and benefits of seamen. *Post*, p. 629.

49 Stat. 620. 42 U. S. C. §§ 301-1307; Supp. II, §§ 1101-1109. *Post*, p. 47.

Status.