

## [CHAPTER 510]

## AN ACT

December 3, 1945  
[S. 1097]  
[Public Law 238]

To establish the status of funds and employees of the midshipmen's store at the United States Naval Academy.

Midshipmen's store  
at U. S. Naval Acad-  
emy.  
Accounting.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That all funds collected from the operations of the midshipmen's store at the United States Naval Academy are appropriated for the purpose of providing and maintaining the necessary service and shall hereafter be accounted for as public moneys.

Status of employees.

SEC. 2. All employees of such midshipmen's store, whether heretofore paid from appropriated moneys or from receipts of the midshipmen's store, shall hereafter be deemed to be Government employees entitled to all benefits and subject to all restrictions arising under the laws of the United States applicable to civil-service employees of their grade and class. All employees of said midshipmen's store on the effective date of this Act shall be entitled to claim credit for prior employment in said store for purposes of any benefits to which they may be entitled under the laws of the United States, and no such employee shall suffer, by virtue of being placed in the status of a civil-service employee by this Act, a reduction in total pay below that being received by him on the effective date of this Act.

Credit for prior em-  
ployment.

Approved December 3, 1945.

## [CHAPTER 511]

## AN ACT

December 3, 1945  
[S. 1494]  
[Public Law 239]

To exempt Navy or Coast Guard vessels of special construction from the requirements as to the number, position, range, or arc of visibility of lights, and for other purposes.

Navy or Coast  
Guard vessels of  
special construction.

26 Stat. 320.

30 Stat. 96.

28 Stat. 645.

26 Stat. 320.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That any requirement as to the number, position, range of visibility, or arc of visibility of lights required to be displayed by vessels under the Act of Congress approved August 19, 1890 (title 33, U. S. C., secs. 61-141), entitled "An Act to adopt regulations for preventing collisions at sea"; or the Act of Congress approved June 7, 1897 (title 33, U. S. C., secs. 154-231), entitled "An Act to adopt regulations for preventing collision upon certain harbors, rivers, and inland waters of the United States"; or the Act of Congress approved February 8, 1895 (title 33, U. S. C., secs. 241-294), entitled "An Act to regulate navigation on the Great Lakes and their connecting and tributary waters"; or the Act of Congress approved August 19, 1890 (title 33, U. S. C., secs. 301-351), entitled "An Act to adopt special rules for the navigation of harbors, rivers, and inland waters of the United States, except the Great Lakes and their connecting and tributary waters as far east as Montreal, supplementary to the Act of August nineteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety, entitled 'An Act to adopt regulations for preventing collisions at Sea'", and all laws amendatory thereto, shall not apply to any vessel of the Navy or of the Coast Guard, where the Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Treasury in the case of Coast Guard vessels operating under the Treasury Department, or such official or officials as either may designate, shall find or certify that, by reason of special construction, it is not possible with respect to such vessel or class of vessels to comply with the statutory provisions as to the number, position, range of visibility, or arc of visibility of lights. The lights of any such exempted vessel or class of vessels shall, however, comply

Lights require-  
ments.

as closely to the requirements of the applicable statutes as the Secretary shall find to be feasible.

SEC. 2. When the Secretary of the Navy or the Secretary of the Treasury, or such official or officials as either may designate, shall make any finding or certification as prescribed in section 1, notice of such finding or certification and the character and position of the lights to be displayed on such vessel shall be published in "Notice to Mariners".

SEC. 3. This Act shall expire on June 30, 1948.

Approved December 3, 1945.

Notice of findings, etc.

Expiration date.

[CHAPTER 512]

AN ACT

Authorizing payments of rewards to postal employees for inventions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Postmaster General is authorized, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to pay a cash reward for any invention, suggestion, or series of suggestions submitted by one or more employees of the Post Office Department or the Postal Service, which will clearly effect a material economy or increase efficiency in the administration or operation of the Post Office Department or the Postal Service, and which has been adopted for use.

The total amount of rewards made under this Act in any one fiscal year shall not exceed \$25,000 and the amount so paid for any one invention, suggestion, or series of suggestions shall not exceed \$1,000.

Rewards made under this Act shall be paid out of the appropriation for the postal activity primarily benefiting, or may be distributed among appropriations for postal activities benefiting, as the Postmaster General may determine. Payments shall be in addition to the regular compensation of the employee receiving the reward. No employee shall be paid a reward under this Act until he has properly executed an agreement to the effect that the use by the United States of the invention, suggestion, or series of suggestions made by him shall not form the basis of a further claim of any nature upon the United States by him, his heirs, or assigns.

Approved December 3, 1945.

December 3, 1945  
[H. R. 744]  
[Public Law 240]

Postal employees.  
Cash rewards for useful inventions, etc.

Limitations.

Payments.

Agreement.

[CHAPTER 513]

AN ACT

To provide that veterans may obtain copies of public records in the District of Columbia, without the payment of any fees, for use in presenting claims to the Veterans' Administration.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That when a copy of any public record of the District of Columbia is required by the Veterans' Administration to be used in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in benefits made available by the Veterans' Administration, the official custodian of such public record shall without charge provide the applicant for such benefits or any person (including any veterans' organization) acting on his behalf or the authorized representative of the Veterans' Administration with a certified copy of such record.

Approved December 3, 1945.

December 3, 1945  
[H. R. 3868]  
[Public Law 241]

District of Columbia.  
Public records; copies for veterans.