

- (3) endeavor particularly to formulate a method of financing the project on a self-liquidating basis; and
- (4) make a report to the President and to the Congress, together with its recommendations, by February 1, 1956.
- Contributions.** (d) The Commission is authorized to accept in its discretion from any source, public or private, money and property to be used in carrying out its functions under this Act.
- Assistance and advice.** (e) The Commission is authorized to avail itself of the assistance and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Capital Regional Planning Council, the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Recreation Board, and the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency, which shall upon request render such assistance and advice.
- Pay; expenses.** SEC. 2. (a) The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation; but travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in connection with the work of the Commission may be paid from any funds available for expenditure by the Commission.
- Expenditures.** (b) The Commission is authorized, within the limits of funds available to it, to employ and fix the compensation of such officers, experts, and other employees as may be necessary to carry out its functions, and to make such other expenditures as it may deem advisable in carrying out its functions.
- Appropriation.** SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, not to exceed \$25,000, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- Approved July 1, 1955.

Public Law 129

CHAPTER 261

AN ACT

July 1, 1955
[H. R. 5923]

To authorize certain sums to be appropriated immediately for the completion of the construction of the Inter-American Highway.

Inter-American
Highway.
Appropriation.
68 Stat. 73.
Post, p. 452.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum authorized in section 7 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954 (68 Stat. 70) for the Inter-American Highway for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 1957, 1958, and 1959, is hereby authorized for appropriation immediately, to be available until expended, and the additional sum of \$25,730,000 is hereby authorized for appropriation immediately, to be available until expended, for the purposes of and in accordance with the provisions of said section 7.

Approved July 1, 1955.

Public Law 130

CHAPTER 271

AN ACT

July 4, 1955
[H. R. 103]

To provide for the construction of distribution systems on authorized Federal reclamation projects by irrigation districts and other public agencies.

Irrigation distri-
bution systems.
43 USC 371.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That irrigation distribution systems authorized to be constructed under the Federal reclamation laws may, in lieu of construction by the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary"), be constructed by irrigation districts or other public agencies according to plans and specifications approved by the Secretary as provided in this Act.

SEC. 2. To assist financially in the construction of the aforesaid local irrigation distribution systems by irrigation districts and other public agencies the Secretary is authorized, on application therefor by such irrigation districts or other public agencies, to make funds available on a loan basis from moneys appropriated for the construction of such distribution systems to any irrigation district or other public agency in an amount equal to the estimated construction cost of such system, contingent upon a finding by the Secretary that the loan can be returned to the United States in accordance with the general repayment provisions of sections 2 (d) and 9 (d) of the Reclamation Project Act of August 4, 1939, and upon a showing that such district or agency already holds or can acquire all lands and interests in land (except public and other lands or interests in land owned by the United States which are within the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary and subject to disposition by him) necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project. The Secretary shall, upon approval of the loan, enter into a repayment contract which includes such provisions as the Secretary shall deem necessary and proper to provide assurance of prompt repayment of the loan. The term "irrigation district or other public agency" shall for the purposes of this Act mean any conservancy district, irrigation district, water users' organization, or other organization, which is organized under State law and which has capacity to enter into contracts with the United States pursuant to the Federal reclamation laws.

Loans for construction.

53 Stat. 1187,
1195,
43 USC 485 a,
485h.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall require as a condition to any such loan, that the water users' organization contribute in money or materials, labor, lands, or interests in land, computed at their reasonable value, a portion, not in excess of ten per centum, of the construction cost of such project (including all costs of acquiring lands, and interests in land), and that the plans for the distribution system are in accord with sound engineering practices and will achieve the purposes for which the system was authorized. Organizations contracting for repayment of the loans shall operate and maintain such works in conformity with reasonable contractual requirements determined to be appropriate for the protection of the United States, and when full repayment has been made to the United States, the Secretary shall relinquish all claims under said contracts. Title to distribution works constructed pursuant to this Act shall at all times be in the contracting water users' organizations. In addition to any other authority the Secretary may have to grant rights-of-way, easements, flowage rights, or other interests in lands for project purposes, the Secretary or the head of any other executive department may sell and convey to any irrigation district or other public agency at fair value lands and rights-of-way owned by the United States (other than lands being administered for national park, national monument, or wildlife purposes) which are reasonably necessary to the construction, operation, and maintenance of an irrigation distribution system under the provisions of this Act. No benefits or privileges under reclamation laws including repayment provisions shall be denied an irrigation distribution system because such system has been constructed pursuant to this Act. The provisions of this Act shall apply only to irrigation purposes, including incidental domestic and stock water, and loans hereunder shall be interest free. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to repeal or limit the procedural and substantive requirements of section 8 of the Act of June 17, 1902.

Conditions.

32 Stat. 390,
43 USC 372, 383.

SEC. 4. Except as herein otherwise provided, the provisions of the Federal reclamation laws, and Acts amendatory thereto, are continued in full force and effect.

43 USC 371.

Approved July 4, 1955.