

50 Stat. 810. (2) to procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized by section 15 of the Administrative Expenses Act of 1946 (5 U.S.C. 55a) but at rates not to exceed \$50 a day for individuals.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, persons in the employ of the Commission under subsections (c) and (d) (1) of this section shall be considered to be Federal employees for all purposes, including—

70 Stat. 743. (1) the Civil Service Retirement Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. 2251–2267),

68 Stat. 736. (2) the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Act of 1954, as amended (5 U.S.C. 2091–2103),

(3) annual and sick leave, and

63 Stat. 166. (4) the Travel Expense Act of 1949, as amended (5 U.S.C. 835–842).

(f) No individual employed in the service of the Commission shall be paid compensation for such employment at a rate in excess of \$20,000 per annum.

COMPENSATION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

63 Stat. 166. 60 Stat. 808. SEC. 7. (a) Members of the Commission who are Members of Congress, officers of the executive branch of the Federal Government, Governors, or full-time salaried officers of city and county governments shall serve without compensation in addition to that received in their regular public employment, but shall be allowed necessary travel expenses (or, in the alternative, a per diem in lieu of subsistence and mileage not to exceed the rates prescribed in the Travel Expense Act of 1949, as amended), without regard to the Travel Expense Act of 1949, as amended (5 U.S.C. 835–842), the Standardized Government Travel Regulations, or section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (5 U.S.C. 73b), and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of duties vested in the Commission.

(b) Members of the Commission, other than those to whom subsection (a) is applicable, shall receive compensation at the rate of \$50 per day for each day they are engaged in the performance of their duties as members of the Commission and shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the Commission, as provided for in subsection (a) of this section.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 8. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved September 24, 1959.

Public Law 86-381

AN ACT

September 25, 1959
[H. R. 4821]

To amend the Act of August 12, 1955, Public Law 378, Eighty-fourth Congress (69 Stat. 707), so as to provide additional relief for losses sustained in the Texas City disaster.

1959 Amendment
to the Texas City
Disaster Relief
Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act of August 12, 1955, Public Law 378, Eighty-fourth Congress (69 Stat. 707), as amended, is further amended as provided herein.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Army or such person as he may designate shall apply the following rules:

(a) Each instance of death or personal injury shall be considered as having created a separate claim.

(b) A claim for death shall be deemed not to have abated on the death of the claimant before award under this Act and shall be settled by payment to the person or persons entitled to the estate of the deceased claimant under the laws of Texas, who shall be deemed claimants for this purpose.

(c) A brother or sister of a deceased person who was totally dependent on the deceased person and which brother or sister was permanently and totally disabled at the time of the death of such deceased person shall be entitled to assert a claim for death, but no award shall be made if it would diminish the award justly due other survivors of the deceased person under the Texas wrongful death act or under subsection 2(b) of this section.

(d) Where a corporation sustained property damage in the Texas City disaster and filed a civil action against the United States for losses sustained in the Texas City disaster and thereafter was dissolved, and the claim filed on behalf of the dissolved corporation by it and by its two stockholders was administratively consolidated by the Secretary of the Army with other claims filed by said stockholders, the Secretary of the Army shall settle the claim, treating it as a claim asserted by the dissolved corporation.

(e) The Secretary of the Army shall consider and settle all claims based on death or permanent disability. "Permanent disability" under this subsection shall include only those permanent disabilities which are deemed to be 40 per centum or more disabling in accordance with the standard schedule of rating disabilities in current use by the Veterans' Administration.

SEC. 3. Section 3 is amended by the addition of the following sentence at the end of subsection (a) of that section: "The limitations of this subsection shall not apply to claims based upon death or upon permanent disabilities which are deemed to be 40 per centum or more disabling in accordance with the standard schedule of rating disabilities in current use by the Veterans' Administration, or to claims asserted by the brother or sister of a deceased person who was totally dependent on the deceased person and was permanently and totally disabled at the time of the death of such deceased person."

SEC. 4. Section 7 is amended to read as follows:

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay out of moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the claims referred to in this Act in the amounts approved for payment by the Secretary of the Army, and the administrative costs of the investigation and settlement of claims under this Act."

SEC. 5. Within two years from the effective date of this Act, the Secretary of the Army or his designee shall fix and determine the awards, if any, on claims reconsidered or submitted under this Act. The authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to make payment of awards so fixed and determined or those awards heretofore made under the Act of August 12, 1955, shall terminate three years from the effective date of this Act.

Except as otherwise provided herein, the law of the State of Texas shall apply.

SEC. 6. The Secretary of the Army, two years and six months after the date of enactment of this Act, shall transmit to the Congress, in addition to any such information relating to the Act of August 12,

Report to Congress.

1955, which has not been reported heretofore—

(a) a statement of each claim reconsidered or submitted to the Secretary of the Army in accordance with this Act which has not been settled by him, with supporting papers and a report of his findings of fact and recommendations; and

(b) a report of each claim settled by him and paid pursuant to this Act. The reports shall contain a brief statement concerning the character and justice of each claim, the amount claimed, and the amount approved and paid.

SEC. 7. Claimants shall submit their claims in writing to the Secretary of the Army, under such rules as he prescribes, within ninety days after enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. The Secretary of the Army is directed to reconsider and settle claims affected by the provisions of this Act without regard to any release of and assignment to the United States heretofore executed by the claimants.

SEC. 9. All departments and agencies of the Government upon the request of the Secretary of the Army or his designee are authorized to furnish any information available relevant to the reconsideration and settlement of claims under this Act.

SEC. 10. The Secretary of the Army, in settling the claims herein directed to be settled, shall proceed to consider the claims heretofore filed, if sufficient in form, and may at his option require the claimant to file an additional claim or submit additional evidence of loss. The Secretary of the Army shall forthwith notify all claimants or their attorneys, if any, whose claims are to be reconsidered under the provisions of this Act that such reconsideration is being undertaken. When a file relating to a claim previously submitted under this Act shows that a person other than a person who submitted the claim would be entitled to recover if he submitted a claim, the Secretary of the Army or his designee shall notify the person of his right to submit a claim.

SEC. 11. In making the settlements authorized by this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall proceed under all of the limitations and directions of the Act of August 12, 1955, except as herein amended, and shall make such settlements under the regulations and procedures used in making settlements under the Act of August 12, 1955, except as to such changes necessitated by this Act, and all of the provisions of the Act of August 12, 1955, except as herein amended, shall apply to settlements made under this Act.

SEC. 12. This Act may be cited as the "1959 Amendment to the Texas City Disaster Relief Act".

Approved September 25, 1959.

Short title.

Public Law 86-382

AN ACT

To provide a health benefits program for Government employees.

September 28, 1959
[S. 2162]

Federal Employees Health Benefits Act of 1959.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Federal Employees Health Benefits Act of 1959".