

## AMENDMENTS

1954—Act Sept. 3, 1954, corrected references and struck out obsolete material.

**§ 16. Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System; money transfers; portion of receipts withheld**

On and after May 20, 1926, such amount of money as may be authorized by the Secretary of the Army may be withheld temporarily from the receipts of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System by the auditor of said system as a working balance from which to make payments of money transfers from and to Alaska and between points within Alaska, to be accounted for accordingly.

(May 20, 1926, ch. 345, 44 Stat. 576; July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, §205(a), 61 Stat. 501; Pub. L. 92-310, title III, §233, June 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 214.)

## Editorial Notes

## AMENDMENTS

1972—Pub. L. 92-310 struck out provisions which permitted the expenses of procuring necessary official bonds of certain enlisted men to be paid from the receipts of the system.

## Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

## CHANGE OF NAME

Department of War designated Department of the Army and title of Secretary of War changed to Secretary of the Army by section 205(a) of act July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, 61 Stat. 501. Section 205(a) of act July 26, 1947, was repealed by section 53 of act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 641. Section 1 of act Aug. 10, 1956, enacted Title 10, Armed Forces, which in sections 3010 to 3013 continued Department of the Army under administrative supervision of Secretary of the Army.

**§ 17. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-119, title VI, § 620, Nov. 26, 1997, 111 Stat. 2519**

Section, act May 26, 1900, ch. 586, 31 Stat. 206, related to prohibition of establishment of telegraph or cable lines by foreigners.

## CHAPTER 2—SUBMARINE CABLES

Sec.	
21.	Submarine cables; willful injury to; punishment.
22.	Negligent injury to submarine cables; punishment.
23.	Injury to submarine cables in efforts to save life excepted.
24.	Vessels laying cables; signals; avoidance of buoys.
25.	Fishing vessels; duty to keep nets from cables.
26.	Duties of commanders of warships.
27.	Offending vessels to show nationality.
28.	Penalties not to bar suits for damages.
29.	Master of offending vessel punishable.
30.	Definitions.
31.	Summary trials.
32.	Application.
33.	Jurisdiction and venue of actions and offenses.
34.	Licenses for landing or operating cables connecting United States with foreign country; necessity for.
35.	Withholding or revoking of licenses by President; terms and conditions of licenses.
36.	Preventing landing or operating of cables; injunction.

## Sec.

37.	Violations; punishment.
38.	“United States” defined.
39.	Amendment, modification, etc., of rights granted.

**§ 21. Submarine cables; willful injury to; punishment**

Any person who shall willfully and wrongfully break or injure, or attempt to break or injure, or who shall in any manner procure, counsel, aid, abet, or be accessory to such breaking or injury, or attempt to break or injure, a submarine cable in such manner as to interrupt or embarrass, in whole or in part, telegraphic communication, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or to both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

(Feb. 29, 1888, ch. 17, §1, 25 Stat. 41.)

## Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

## SHORT TITLE

Act Feb. 29, 1888, ch. 17, 25 Stat. 41, which enacted sections 21 to 33 of this title, is popularly known as the “Submarine Cable Act”.

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The protection of submarine cables was made the subject of an international convention between the United States and Germany, Argentine Confederation, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Brazil, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Spain, United States of Columbia, France, Great Britain, Guatemala, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, Servia, Sweden and Norway, Uruguay, and the British Colonies. It was concluded Mar. 14, 1884, ratified Jan. 26, 1885, ratifications exchanged Apr. 16, 1885, proclaimed May 22, 1885, and entered into force for the United States May 1, 1888. Its provisions were set forth in 24 Stat. 989 to 1000.

**§ 22. Negligent injury to submarine cables; punishment**

Any person who by culpable negligence shall break or injure a submarine cable in such manner as to interrupt or embarrass, in whole or in part, telegraphic communication, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to a fine not exceeding \$500, or to both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

(Feb. 29, 1888, ch. 17, §2, 25 Stat. 41.)

**§ 23. Injury to submarine cables in efforts to save life excepted**

The provisions of sections 21 and 22 of this title shall not apply to a person who breaks or injures a cable in an effort to save the life or limb of himself or of any other person, or to save his own or any other vessel: *Provided*, That he takes reasonable precautions to avoid such breaking or injury.

(Feb. 29, 1888, ch. 17, §3, 25 Stat. 41.)

**§ 24. Vessels laying cables; signals; avoidance of buoys**

The master of any vessel which, while engaged in laying or repairing submarine cables, shall