

Employees, administrative expenses, etc.

and may call upon any Federal department, board, or commission for assistance in carrying out the purposes of this Act; and shall have the power to appoint, remove, and fix the compensation of such officers and employees not in conflict with existing law and make such expenditure for rent, outside the District of Columbia, printing, telegrams, telephones, books of reference, books of law, periodicals, newspapers, furniture, stationery, office equipment, travel, and other supplies and expenses as shall be deemed necessary to the administration of this Act in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, and there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$25,000 to be available for expenditure during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1927, and the appropriation of such additional sums as may be necessary thereafter to carry out the purposes of this Act is hereby authorized. This Act shall not abrogate nor nullify any other statute, whether State or Federal, dealing with the same subjects as this Act, but it is intended that all such statutes shall remain in full force and effect, except in so far only as they are inconsistent herewith or repugnant hereto.

Amount authorized for fiscal year.

Former statutes not abrogated, etc.

Invalidity of any provision not to affect remainder of Act.

SEC. 4. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act and the applicability of such provisions to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Approved, March 3, 1927.

March 3, 1927.

[S. 2081.]

[Public, No. 713.]

CHAP. 310.—An Act Placing certain noncommissioned officers in the first grade.

Army.
Noncommissioned officers placed in first grade.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following noncommissioned officers on the retired list of the Regular Army are placed in the first grade: Post ordnance sergeants, post commissary sergeants, and post quartermaster sergeants on the retired list; electrician sergeants, first class, Coast Artillery Corps, retired; quartermaster sergeants, Quartermaster Corps, retired prior to June 3, 1916; hospital stewards retired prior to March 2, 1903, and sergeants, first class, Hospital Corps, retired prior to June 3, 1916.

Approved, March 3, 1927.

March 3, 1927.

[H. R. 15131.]

[Public, No. 714.]

CHAP. 311.—An Act To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to modify agreements heretofore made for the settlement of certain claims in favor of the United States.

Navy.
Acceptance of settlement of certain ship-building claims, authorized.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized, in his discretion, to accept in full settlement from debtors of the United States the present value reckoned at the rate of 4¼ per centum per annum simple interest of all noninterest-bearing obligations for the repayment of money advanced to said debtors to assist them in carrying out contracts with the United States entered into during the late war, such contracts having been executed by the Secretary of the Navy on behalf of the United States or by others acting under his authority.

Approved, March 3, 1927.