AN ACT

To extend the laws governing inspection of vessels, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That title 52 of the Revised Statutes is amended by inserting after section 4417 thereof a new section designated section 4417a to read as follows:

"Sec. 4417a. (1) All vessels, regardless of tonnage, size, or manner of propulsion, and whether self-propelled or not, and whether carrying freight or passengers for hire or not, that shall have on board any inflammable or combustible liquid cargo in bulk, except public vessels owned by the United States, other than those engaged in commercial service, shall be considered steam vessels for the purposes of this title and shall be subject to the provisions thereof: Provided, That this section shall not apply to vessels having on board only inflammable or combustible liquid for use as fuel or stores or to vessels carrying liquid cargo only in drums, barrels, or other packages.

(2) In order to secure effective provision against the hazards of life and property created by the vessels to which this section applies, the Board of Supervising Inspectors, with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce, shall establish such additional rules and regulations as may be necessary with respect to the design and construction, alteration, or repair of such vessels, including the superstructures, hulls, places for stowing and carrying such liquid cargo, fittings, equipment, appliances, propulsive machinery, auxiliary machinery, and boilers thereof; and with respect to all materials used in such construction, alteration, or repair; and with respect to the handling and stowage of such liquid cargo; the manner of such handling or stowage, and the machinery and appliances used in such handling and stowage; and with respect to equipment and appliances for life-saving and fire protection; and with respect to the operation of such vessels; and with respect to the requirements of the manning of such vessels and the duties and qualifications of the officers and crews thereof; and with respect to the inspection of all the foregoing: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to common carriers engaged in interstate or foreign commerce which transport such liquid cargo by water insofar only as such common carriers are subject to the regulations formulated by the Interstate Commerce Commission under the provisions of section 233 of the Act of March 4, 1909 (ch. 321, 35 Stat. 1135), as amended (U. S. C. 1934 ed., title 18, sec. 383). In establishing such rules and regulations the Board of Supervising Inspectors may, with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce, adopt rules of the American Bureau of shipping or similar American classification society for classed vessels insofar as such rules pertain to the efficiency of hulls and the reliability of machinery of vessels to which this section
applies. In establishing such rules and regulations, the Board of Supervising Inspectors shall give due consideration to the kinds and grades of such liquid cargo permitted to be on board such vessel.

"(3) Before any rules and regulations, or any alteration, amendment, or repeal thereof, are approved by the Secretary of Commerce under the provisions of this section, except in an emergency, the said Secretary shall publish such rules and regulations and hold hearings with respect thereto on such notice as he deems advisable under the circumstances.

"(4) No vessel subject to the provisions of this section shall, after the effective date of the rules and regulations established hereunder, have on board such liquid cargo, until a certificate of inspection has been issued to such vessel in accordance with the provisions of this title and until a permit has been endorsed on such certificate of inspection by a board of local inspectors, indicating that such vessel is in compliance with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations established hereunder, and showing the kinds and grades of such liquid cargo that such vessel may have on board or transport. Such permit shall not be endorsed by a board of local inspectors on such certificate of inspection until such vessel has been inspected by such board of local inspectors, or by any other board or officer of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation designated by the Director thereof, and found to be in compliance with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations established hereunder. For the purpose of any such inspection approved plans and certificates of class of the American Bureau of Shipping or other recognized classification society for classed vessels may be accepted as evidence of the structural efficiency of the hull and the reliability of the machinery of such classed vessels except as far as existing law places definite responsibility on the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation. A permit issued under the provisions of this section shall be valid for a period of time not to exceed the duration of the certificate of inspection on which such permit is endorsed, and shall be subject to revocation by a board of local inspectors whenever such a board shall find that the vessel concerned does not comply with the conditions upon which such permit was issued: Provided, That the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to vessels of a foreign nation having on board a valid certificate of inspection recognized under law or treaty by the United States: And provided further, That no permit shall be issued under the provisions of this section authorizing to be on board any vessel, described in the provisions of sections 4472 and 4278 of the Revised Statutes, section 234 of the Act of March 4, 1909 (ch. 321, 35 Stat. 1135), as amended (U.S.C., 1934 ed., title 18, sec. 384), and section 8 of the Act of August 2, 1882 (ch. 374, 22 Stat. 189; U.S.C., 1934 ed., title 46, sec. 171), any of the materials expressly prohibited to be carried on such vessels by the afore-mentioned provisions.

"(5) Vessels subject to the provisions of this section shall have on board such shipping documents as may be prescribed by the Board of Supervising Inspectors with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce indicating the kinds, grades, and approximate quantities of such liquid cargo, on board such vessel, the shippers and consignees thereof, and the location of the shipping and destination points.

"(6) (a) In all cases where the certificate of inspection does not require at least two licensed officers, a board of local inspectors shall enter in the permit issued to any vessel under the provisions of this section the number of the crew required to be certified as tankermen,
“(b) A board of local inspectors shall issue to applicants certificates as tankerman, stating the kinds of liquid cargo the holder of such certificate is, in the judgment of such board, qualified to handle aboard vessels with safety, upon satisfactory proof and examination, in form and manner prescribed by the Board of Supervising Inspectors with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce, that the applicant is in good physical condition, that such applicant is trained in and capable efficiently to perform the necessary operations aboard vessels having such liquid cargo on board, and that the applicant fulfills the qualifications of tankerman as prescribed by the Board of Supervising Inspectors under the provisions of this section. Such certificates shall be subject to suspension or revocation on the same grounds and in the same manner and with like procedure as is provided in the case of suspension or revocation of licenses of officers under the provisions of section 4450 of this title.

“(7) The owner, master, or person in charge of any vessel subject to the provisions of this section, or any or all of them, who shall violate the provisions of this section, or of the rules and regulations established hereunder, shall be subject to a fine of not more than $1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

“(8) The rules and regulations to be established pursuant to this section shall become effective ninety days after their promulgation unless the Secretary of Commerce shall for good cause fix a different time.”

Approved, June 23, 1936.

[CHAPTER 730.]

AN ACT

To extend the provisions of certain laws to the island of Puerto Rico.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938, the Territory of Puerto Rico shall be entitled to share in appropriations now or which may hereafter become available for apportionment under the Act entitled “An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes”, approved July 11, 1916, and any Act amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, upon the same terms and conditions as any of the several States, and the Territory of Puerto Rico shall be included in the calculations to determine the basis of apportionment of such funds: Provided, That the system of roads on which Federal-aid apportionments to the Territory of Puerto Rico shall be expended may be determined and agreed upon by the highway departments of said Territory and the Secretary of Agriculture without regard to the limitations in section 6 of the Federal Highway Act respecting the selection and designation of such system of roads; and, when the system first determined and agreed upon shall have been completed, additions thereto may be made in like manner as funds become available for the construction and maintenance of such additions.

Approved, June 23, 1936.