

[CHAPTER 439]

AN ACT

To authorize conversions of certain naval vessels.

August 1, 1947
[S. 1215]

[Public Law 319]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purpose of improving the military characteristics of combatant and auxiliary vessels of the United States Navy, the President of the United States is hereby authorized to convert such vessels as he may consider best suited for the purposes of national defense without limitation on expenditures for any one vessel within the total sum appropriated for the purpose.

Approved August 1, 1947.

[CHAPTER 440]

AN ACT

To amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

August 1, 1947
[S. 1326]

[Public Law 320]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subsection (a) of section 508 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) Commencing with crops planted for harvest in 1948, for the purpose of determining the most practical plan, terms, and conditions of insurance for agricultural commodities, if sufficient actuarial data are available, as determined by the Board, to insure, or to reinsure insurers of, producers of such agricultural commodities under any plan or plans of insurance determined by the Board to be adapted to any such commodity: *Provided,* That reinsurance for private insurance companies shall be limited to contracts covering farms in not to exceed twenty counties selected by the Board. Such insurance shall be against loss of the insured commodity while in the field due to unavoidable causes, including drought, flood, hail, wind, frost, winter-kill, lightning, fire, excessive rain, snow, wildlife, hurricane, tornado, insect infestation, plant disease, and such other unavoidable causes as may be determined by the Board. Any insurance offered against loss in yield shall not cover in excess of 75 per centum of the recorded or appraised average yield of the commodity on the insured farm for a representative period subject to such adjustments as the Board may prescribe to the end that the average yields fixed for farms in the same area, which are subject to the same conditions, may be fair and just: *Provided,* That, if 75 per centum of the average yield represents generally more protection than the investment in the crop in any area, taking into consideration recognized farming practices, the Board shall reduce such maximum percentage so as more nearly to reflect the investment in the crop in such area. Insurance provided under this subsection shall not cover losses due to the neglect or malfeasance of the producer, or to the failure of the producer to reseed to the same crop in areas and under circumstances where it is customary to so reseed, or to the failure of the producer to follow established good farming practices. In 1948 insurance shall be limited to not more than seven crops (including wheat, cotton, flax, corn, and tobacco) and to not more than three additional crops in each year thereafter. Insurance provided for any agricultural commodity, except wheat, cotton, flax, corn, and tobacco, shall be limited to producers in not to exceed twenty counties. Insurance for wheat, cotton, corn, flax, and tobacco shall be limited to producers in not to exceed two hundred counties in the case of wheat, fifty-six counties in the case of cotton, fifty counties each in the case of corn and flax, and thirty-five counties in the case of

Reinsurance for private insurance companies.

Insurance against loss in yield.

Reduction of maximum percentage.

Losses due to neglect, etc.

Insurance in 1948.

52 Stat. 74.
7 U. S. C. § 1508 (a).

tobacco. Counties selected by the Board shall be representative of the several areas where the agricultural commodity insured is normally produced. Insurance shall not be provided in any county unless written applications therefor are filed covering at least two hundred farms or one-third of the farms normally producing the agricultural commodity; nor shall insurance of any agricultural commodity be provided in any county in which the Board determines that the income from such commodity constitutes an unimportant part of the total agricultural income of the county. The Board may limit or refuse insurance in any county or area, or on any farm, on the basis of the insurance risk involved. The Corporation shall report annually to the Congress the results of its operations as to each commodity insured."

SEC. 2. Subsection (b) of section 508 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended, is amended by striking out the period at the end of the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof a colon and the following: "*Provided*, That such premiums may be established on the basis of the parity or comparable price for the commodity as determined and published by the Secretary of Agriculture, or on the basis of an average market price designated by the Board."

52 Stat. 74.
7 U. S. C. § 1508 (b).

Premiums.

SEC. 3. Subsection (c) of section 508 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended, is amended by striking out in the first sentence "however," and inserting in lieu thereof "That indemnities may be determined on the same price basis as premiums are determined for the crop with respect to which such indemnities are paid: *Provided, further,*"

52 Stat. 74.
7 U. S. C. § 1508 (c).

Indemnities.

SEC. 4. Section 502 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

52 Stat. 72.
7 U. S. C. § 1502.

"SEC. 502. It is the purpose of this title to promote the national welfare by improving the economic stability of agriculture through a sound system of crop insurance and providing the means for the research and experience helpful in devising and establishing such insurance."

Purpose of title.

SEC. 5. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the validity of any insurance contract entered into prior to the enactment of this Act insofar as such contract covers the 1947 crop year. Any such contract which purports to cover a crop in the 1948 or any subsequent crop year in any county in which insurance on such crop will be discontinued pursuant to this Act is hereby terminated at the end of the 1947 crop year.

Validity of prior contract.

SEC. 6. Subsection (d) of section 507 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended, is amended by striking out the period at the end of the subsection and inserting a comma and the following: "except that employees or agencies responsible for administering this Act in each county shall be selected and designated by the Corporation and shall be responsible directly to the Corporation without the intervention of any intermediate office or agency."

52 Stat. 74.
7 U. S. C. § 1507 (d).

Selection of employees, etc.

SEC. 7. Subsection (d) of section 506 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act is amended to read as follows:

52 Stat. 73.
7 U. S. C. § 1506 (d).

Supra.

"(d) Subject to the provisions of section 508 (c), may sue and be sued in its corporate name in any court of record of a State having general jurisdiction, or in any United States district court, and jurisdiction is hereby conferred upon such district court to determine such controversies without regard to the amount in controversy: *Provided*, That no attachment, injunction, garnishment, or other similar process, mesne or final, shall be issued against the Corporation or its property."

52 Stat. 72.
7 U. S. C. § 1505.

SEC. 8. Section 505 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

Board of Directors.

"SEC. 505. (a) The management of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors (hereinafter called the 'Board') subject to

the general supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board shall consist of the manager of the Corporation, two other persons employed in the Department of Agriculture, and two persons experienced in the insurance business who are not otherwise employed by the Government. The Board shall be appointed by, and hold office at the pleasure of the Secretary of Agriculture, who shall not, himself, be a member of the Board.

Quorum.

“(b) Vacancies in the Board so long as there shall be three members in office shall not impair the powers of the Board to execute the functions of the Corporation, and three of the members in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board.

Compensation.

“(c) The Directors of the Corporation who are employed in the Department of Agriculture shall receive no additional compensation for their services as such Directors but may be allowed necessary traveling and subsistence expenses when engaged in business of the Corporation, outside of the District of Columbia. The members of the Board who are not employed by the Government shall be paid such compensation for their services as Directors as the Secretary of Agriculture shall determine, but such compensation shall not exceed \$100 per day each when actually employed and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses when engaged in business of the Corporation away from their homes or regular places of business.

Manager.

“(d) The manager of the Corporation shall be its chief executive officer, with such power and authority as may be conferred upon him by the Board. He shall be appointed by, and hold office at the pleasure of, the Secretary of Agriculture.”

Approved August 1, 1947.

[CHAPTER 441]

AN ACT

To authorize relief of accountable officers of the Government, and for other purposes.

August 1, 1947

[S. 1350]

[Public Law 321]

Relief of disbursing officers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the General Accounting Office is authorized, after consideration of the pertinent findings and if in concurrence with the determinations and recommendations of the head of the department or independent establishment concerned, to relieve any disbursing or other accountable officer or agent or former disbursing or other accountable officer or agent of any such department or independent establishment of the Government charged with responsibility on account of physical loss or deficiency of Government funds, vouchers, records, checks, securities, or papers in his charge, if the head of the department or independent establishment determines (1) that such loss or deficiency occurred while such officer or agent was acting in the discharge of his official duties, or that such loss or deficiency occurred by reason of the act or omission of a subordinate of such officer or agent; and (2) that such loss or deficiency occurred without fault or negligence on the part of such officer or agent. This Act shall be applicable only to the actual physical loss or deficiency of Government funds, vouchers, records, checks, securities, or papers, and shall not include deficiencies in the accounts of such officers or agents resulting from illegal or erroneous payments.

Applicability.

SEC. 2. This Act shall not operate to repeal the provisions of the paragraph of the Act entitled “An Act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes”, approved July 11, 1919, relating to relief of disbursing officers of the Navy (41 Stat. 132; U. S. C., title 31, sec. 105), and the Act entitled “An Act to authorize relief of disbursing officers of