

apply to the following vessels: Kentucky (BB66), Hawaii (CB3), Wagner (DE539), Vandiver (DE540), Castle (DD720), Woodrow R. Thompson (DD721), Lansdale (DD766), Seymour D. Owens (DD767), Hoel (DD768), Abner Read (DD769), Seaman (DD791), Unicorn (SS436), and Walrus (SS437).

Approved June 19, 1948.

## [CHAPTER 522]

## AN ACT

To amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the recording and releasing of liens by entries on certificates of title for motor vehicles and trailers, and for other purposes", approved July 2, 1940, as amended.

June 19, 1948  
[S. 2406]  
[Public Law 691]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 12 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the recording and releasing of liens by entries on certificates of title for motor vehicles and trailers, and for other purposes", approved July 2, 1940 (54 Stat. 739), as amended, is amended to read as follows:

Motor-vehicle liens,  
D. C.

D. C. Code, Supp.  
VI, § 40-712.

Fee for recording  
liens.

"SEC. 12. The fee for recording liens or assignments of liens upon a certificate shall be the sum of \$1 for each lien or assignment of lien on each motor vehicle or trailer contained in the instrument, which fee shall include the charge for recording the release of such lien."

SEC. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 12 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the recording and releasing of liens by entries on certificates of title for motor vehicles and trailers, and for other purposes", approved July 2, 1940, as amended by the first section of this Act, there shall be a fee of 50 cents for recording the release of a lien which is recorded under the provisions of such Act of July 2, 1940, as amended, prior to the date of enactment of this Act and no assignment of which is recorded under the provisions of such Act of July 2, 1940, as amended, after the date of enactment of this Act.

Fee for recording re-  
lease of liens.

Approved June 19, 1948.

## [CHAPTER 523]

## AN ACT

To amend the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, as amended, to make further provision for the recording of title to, interests in, and encumbrances upon certain aircraft, and for other purposes.

June 19, 1948  
[S. 2454]  
[Public Law 692]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 1 of the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, as amended (52 Stat. 973; U. S. C., title 49, sec. 401), is amended by changing the number of paragraph (31) to (32), and by inserting, immediately following paragraph (30), the following new paragraph (31):

Civil Aeronautics  
Act of 1938, amend-  
ment.

"(31) 'Spare parts' means parts, appurtenances, and accessories of aircraft (other than aircraft engines and propellers), of aircraft engines (other than propellers), of propellers and of appliances, maintained for installation or use in an aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, or appliance, but which at the time are not installed therein or attached thereto."

"Spare parts."

SEC. 2. Paragraph (17) of section 1 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

52 Stat. 978.  
49 U. S. C. § 401 (17).

"(17) 'Conditional sale' means (a) any contract for the sale of an aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, appliance, or spare part under which possession is delivered to the buyer and the property is to vest in the buyer at a subsequent time, upon the payment of part or all

"Conditional sale."

of the price, or upon the performance of any other condition or the happening of any contingency; or (b) any contract for the bailment or leasing of an aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, appliance, or spare part, by which the bailee or lessee contracts to pay as compensation a sum substantially equivalent to the value thereof, and by which it is agreed that the bailee or lessee is bound to become, or has the option of becoming, the owner thereof upon full compliance with the terms of the contract. The buyer, bailee, or lessee shall be deemed to be the person by whom any such contract is made or given."

52 Stat. 1006.

Establishment of recording system.

SEC. 3. Section 503 of such Act (U. S. C., title 49, sec. 523) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 503. (a) The Administrator shall establish and maintain a system for the recording of each and all of the following:

"(1) Any conveyance which affects the title to, or any interest in, any civil aircraft of the United States;

"(2) Any lease, and any mortgage, equipment trust, contract of conditional sale, or other instrument executed for security purposes, which lease or other instrument affects the title to, or any interest in, any specifically identified aircraft engine or engines of seven hundred and fifty or more rated take-off horsepower for each such engine or the equivalent of such horsepower, and also any assignment or amendment thereof or supplement thereto;

"(3) Any lease, and any mortgage, equipment trust, contract of conditional sale, or other instrument executed for security purposes, which lease or other instrument affects the title to, or any interest in, any aircraft engines, propellers, or appliances maintained by or on behalf of an air carrier certificated under section 604 (b) of this Act for installation or use in aircraft, aircraft engines, or propellers, or any spare parts maintained by or on behalf of such an air carrier, which instrument need only describe generally by types the engines, propellers, appliances, and spare parts covered thereby and designate the location or locations thereof; and also any assignment or amendment thereof or supplement thereto.

52 Stat. 1010.  
49 U. S. C. § 554 (b).

Recording of release, etc.

"(b) The Administrator shall also record under the system provided for in subsection (a) of this section any release, cancellation, discharge, or satisfaction relating to any conveyance or other instrument recorded under said system.

Validity of conveyance.  
*Supra.*

"(c) No conveyance the recording of which is provided for by section 503 (a) (1) made on or after August 22, 1938, and no instrument the recording of which is provided for by section 503 (a) (2) or section 503 (a) (3) made on or after the effective date of this section, shall be valid in respect of such aircraft, aircraft engine or engines, propellers, appliances, or spare parts against any person other than the person by whom the conveyance or other instrument is made or given, his heir or devisee, or any person having actual notice thereof, until such conveyance or other instrument is filed for recordation in the office of the Administrator. For the purposes of this subsection (c), such conveyance or other instrument shall take effect from the time and date of its filing for recordation, and not from the time and date of its execution.

Effective date of conveyance.

"(d) Each conveyance or other instrument recorded by means of or under the system provided for in subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall from the time of its filing for recordation be valid as to all persons without further or other recordation, except that an instrument recorded pursuant to section 503 (a) (3) shall be effective only with respect to those of such items which may from time to time be

*Supra.*

situated at the designated location or locations and only while so situated: *Provided*, That an instrument recorded under section 503 (a) (2) shall not be affected as to the engine or engines specifically identified therein, by any instrument theretofore or thereafter recorded pursuant to section 503 (a) (3).

“(e) No conveyance or other instrument shall be recorded unless it shall have been acknowledged before a notary public or other officer authorized by the law of the United States, or of a State, Territory, or possession thereof, or the District of Columbia, to take acknowledgment of deeds.

Acknowledgment  
before notary public.

“(f) The Administrator shall keep a record of the time and date of the filing of conveyances and other instruments with him and of the time and date of recordation thereof. He shall record conveyances and other instruments filed with him in the order of their reception, in files to be kept for that purpose, and indexed according to—

Index of convey-  
ances.

“(1) the identifying description of the aircraft or aircraft engine, or in the case of an instrument referred to in section 503 (a) (3), the location or locations specified therein; and

“(2) the names of the parties to the conveyance or other instrument.

“(g) The Administrator is authorized to provide by regulation for the endorsement upon certificates of registration, or aircraft certificates, of information with respect to the ownership of the aircraft for which each certificate is issued, the recording of discharges and satisfactions of recorded instruments, and other transactions affecting title to or interest in aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers, appliances, or parts, and for such other records, proceedings, and details as may be necessary to facilitate the determination of the rights of parties dealing with civil aircraft of the United States, aircraft engines, propellers, appliances, or parts.

Regulations.

“(h) The person applying for the issuance or renewal of an airworthiness certificate for an aircraft with respect to which there has been no recordation of ownership as provided in this section shall present with his application such information with respect to the ownership of the aircraft as the Administrator shall deem necessary to show the persons who are holders of property interests in such aircraft and the nature and extent of such interests.”

Unrecorded owner-  
ship.

Approved June 19, 1948.

[CHAPTER 524]

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force to return certain lands situated in Puerto Rico, in accordance with the terms of the conveyances to the United States Government, and final judgments in certain condemnation proceedings.

June 19, 1948  
[S. 2592]  
[Public Law 693]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force are individually authorized, in accordance with the express provisions of the conveyances to the United States Government or the final judgments in condemnation proceedings filed at the request of the Secretary of the Army in the Federal District Court for Puerto Rico, to convey all or any part of the land in Puerto Rico, which was acquired for national defense purposes, when such land or part thereof is no longer required for such purposes. The improvements constructed by the Departments of the Army, Navy, or Air Force, upon

Puerto Rico.  
Return of land ac-  
quired for national  
defense purposes.

Disposal of improve-  
ments.