

May 9, 1900.

**CHAP. 387.**—An Act Authorizing the Secretary of War to make regulations governing the running of loose logs, steamboats, and rafts on certain rivers and streams.

Navigation.  
Exemption from  
prohibition against  
floating sack rafts  
in streams navigated  
by steamboats.  
Vol. 30, p. 1152.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the prohibition contained in section fifteen of the river and harbor Act, approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, against floating loose timber and logs, or sack rafts, so called, of timber and logs in streams or channels actually navigated by steamboats, shall not apply to any navigable river or waterway of the United States or any part thereof whereon the floating of loose timber and logs and sack rafts of timber and logs is the principal method of navigation. But such method of navigation on such river or waterway or part thereof shall be subject to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of War as hereinafter provided.

Secretary of War to  
make regulations for  
floating logs, rafts, etc.

**SEC. 2.** That the Secretary of War shall have power, and he is hereby authorized and directed, within the shortest practicable time after the passage hereof, to prescribe rules and regulations, which he may at any time modify, to govern and regulate the floating of loose timber and logs, and sack rafts, (so called) of timber and logs and other methods of navigation on the streams and waterways, or any thereof, of the character, as to navigation, in section one hereof described. The said rules and regulations shall be so framed as to equitably adjust conflicting interests between the different methods or forms of navigation; and the said rules and regulations shall be published at least once in such newspaper or newspapers of general circulation as in the opinion of the Secretary of War shall be best adapted to give notice of said rules and regulations to persons affected thereby and locally interested therein. And all modifications of said rules and regulations shall be similarly published. And such rules and regulations when so prescribed and published as to any such stream or waterway shall have the force of law, and any violation thereof shall be a misdemeanor, and every person convicted of such violation shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars nor less than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment (in case of a natural person) for not less than thirty days nor more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court: *Provided,* That the proper action to enforce the provisions of this section may be commenced before any commissioner, judge, or court of the United States, and such commissioner, judge or court shall proceed in respect thereto as authorized by law in the case of crimes or misdemeanors committed against the United States.

—publication.

—force.

—penalty.

*Proviso.*  
Procedure.

Amendment.

Pending actions un-  
affected.

**SEC. 3.** That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act at any time is hereby reserved.

**SEC. 4.** That this Act shall not, nor shall any rules or regulations prescribed thereunder, in any manner affect any civil action or actions heretofore commenced and now pending to recover damages claimed to have been sustained by reason of the violation of any of the terms of said section fifteen, as originally enacted, or in violation of any other law.

Approved, May 9, 1900.

May 10, 1900.

**CHAP. 388.**—An Act To authorize the construction of a bridge across the Back Bay, at Biloxi, Mississippi.

Biloxi, Miss., may  
bridge Back Bay, etc.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the mayor and board of aldermen of the town of Biloxi, in the State of Mississippi, be, and hereby are, authorized to construct and maintain a bridge and

approaches thereto across the bay, commonly known as the Back Bay, at or near the town of Biloxi, Mississippi, between the said town of Biloxi, situated on the south side of said bay, to a point on the north side of said bay, said bridge to start at or near what is known as the old ferry point, on the south shore of said bay, running thence north twenty-two degrees east to the south side of the channel or to the marsh; thence north nineteen degrees east to mainland, or said location to be selected consistent with the interests of navigation. Said bridge shall be built to provide for the passage of wagons and vehicles of all kinds, and animals, and for all road travel, for such reasonable rates of toll and under such reasonable rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the said parties, or their successors and assigns, and to be approved from time to time by the Secretary of War.

Transit; toll.

SEC. 2. That said bridge shall not be commenced or built until the plans and specifications for its construction have been submitted to the Secretary of War for his approval, nor until he shall approve the plan and location of said bridge; and if any change be made in the plan or construction of said bridge at any time, such change shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of War; and any change in the construction or any alteration of said bridge that may be directed at any time by Congress or the Secretary of War shall be made at the cost and expense of the owners thereof; that said bridge shall be constructed without interference with the security and convenience of navigation of said bay beyond what is necessary to carry out effectually the rights and privileges hereby granted, and in order to secure that object the said parties shall submit to the Secretary of War, for his examination and approval, a design of and drawings of said bridge and accessory works and a map of the proposed location, giving, for the space of three hundred yards above and below such proposed location, the topography of the banks of the bay, with shore lines and soundings and directions of currents at medium high-tide water, and such other information as may be required for a full understanding of the subject.

Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

Changes.

No obstruction to navigation.

SEC. 3. That said bridge shall be built as a low bridge, and shall have one drawspan of such width of openings as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War, which drawspan shall be maintained over the main channel of said bay at an accessible and navigable point, and the piers of said bridge at said channel shall be parallel with, and the bridge itself at right angles to, the current of said channel. Said drawspan shall be opened promptly by said parties or their successors and assigns, upon reasonable signal, for the passage of boats and rafts: *Provided*, That the said parties, or their successors and assigns, shall, at their own expense, under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of War, when so required, do and perform such necessary work to maintain the channel within the drawspan of said bridge, and shall, at their own expense, maintain a depth of water through said span not less than now existing, as shown by the records of the War Department: *And provided further*, That said parties, or their successors and assigns, shall maintain, at their own expense, from sunset to sunrise, such lights or other signals on said bridge as the Light-House Board shall prescribe.

Draw.

*Provided.* Maintenance of channel.

Lights.

SEC. 4. That any bridge built under this Act and subject to its limitations shall be a lawful structure, and shall be recognized and known as a post route, upon which also no higher charge shall be made for the transmission over the same of the mails, the troops and munitions of war of the United States than the rate per mile for the transportation over the public highways leading to the said bridge, and it shall enjoy the rights and privileges of other post roads in the United States.

To be lawful structure and post route.

SEC. 5. That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act, and the Secretary of War, whenever he shall deem it necessary,

Amendment. Removal of obstructions, etc.