

## [CHAPTER 641]

## AN ACT

To amend the Acts granting increased compensation to civilian employees for the period July 1, 1917, to June 30, 1924.

August 10, 1939  
[H. R. 5333]  
[Public, No. 366]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That no claim for additional or increased compensation incident to services rendered by civilian employees of the Government of the United States or of the District of Columbia between July 1, 1917, and June 30, 1924, authorized by Acts making appropriations for the payment of such increased or additional compensation for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1918, to June 30, 1924, inclusive, shall be considered by the General Accounting Office unless presented to it within six months from the date of the enactment of this Act.

Civilian employees. Time limitation on presenting claims for increased compensation for period designated.

Approved, August 10, 1939.

## [CHAPTER 642]

## AN ACT

Relating to the retirement of employees to whom the provisions of section 6 of the Act approved June 20, 1918 (40 Stat. 608; U. S. C., 1934 edition, title 33, sec. 763), as amended, apply.

August 10, 1939  
[H. R. 6747]  
[Public, No. 370]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That any officer or employee of the Lighthouse Service who, on June 30, 1939, meets the requirements (except those relating to age and period of service) of section 6 of the Act approved June 20, 1918 (40 Stat. 608; U. S. C., title 33, sec. 763), as amended or supplemented, and who shall (1) reach the age of sixty-four years prior to July 1, 1940, or (2) be the occupant of an office or position abolished prior to July 1, 1940, may in the discretion of the head of his executive department be retired with annual compensation as provided in said section 6: *Provided, however,* That no such officer or employee shall be retired hereunder unless he shall have been in the service of the Government not less than thirty years at the time of retirement. Any officer or employee to whom this Act applies who is not retired hereunder prior to reaching the age of sixty-five years shall, upon reaching such age, become eligible for retirement in accordance with the provisions of said section 6 of the Act of June 20, 1918, and may not be retired under the provisions of this Act. Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to affect the application of said section 6 to any officer or employee of the Lighthouse Service to whom this Act does not apply.

Lighthouse Service. Application of retirement provisions to certain employees.

40 Stat. 608.  
33 U. S. C. § 763.  
*Ante*, p. 1216.

Proviso. Service requirements.

Retirement of eligible personnel on reaching retirement age.

Construction of Act.

Approved, August 10, 1939.

## [CHAPTER 643]

## AN ACT

To amend section 4488 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (U. S. C., 1934 edition, title 46, sec. 481).

August 10, 1939  
[H. R. 7090]  
[Public, No. 371]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the first two sentences appearing in paragraph 1 of section 4488 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (U. S. C., 1934 edition, title 46, sec. 481), is hereby amended to read as follows:

Navigation.

R. S. § 4488.  
46 U. S. C. § 481.

“SEC. 4488. Every steamer navigating the ocean, or any lake, bay, or sound of the United States, shall be provided with such numbers of lifeboats, floats, rafts, life-preservers, line-carrying projectiles, and the means of propelling them, and drags, as will best secure the

Lifeboats, etc., number to be provided on all steamers.

Boat-disengaging apparatus.

Rules and regulations.

safety of all persons on board such vessel in case of disaster; and every seagoing vessel carrying passengers, and every such vessel navigating any of the northern or northwestern lakes, shall have the lifeboats required by law, provided with suitable boat-disengaging apparatus, so arranged as to allow such boats to be safely launched. And the Board of Supervising Inspectors shall fix and determine, by their rules and regulations, the character and arrangement of boat-disengaging apparatus and the character of lifeboats, floats, rafts, life-preservers, line-carrying projectiles, and the means of propelling them, and drags that shall be used on such vessels, and also the character and capacity of pumps or other appliances for freeing the steamer from water in case of heavy leakage, the capacity of such pumps or appliances being suited to the navigation in which the steamer is employed."

Approved, August 10, 1939.

[CHAPTER 644]

AN ACT

August 10, 1939

[H. R. 7091]

[Public, No. 372]

To amend section 4471 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (U. S. C., 1934 edition, title 46, sec. 464).

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 4471 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (U. S. C., 1934 edition, title 46, sec. 464), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4471. Every steamer permitted by her certificate of inspection to carry as many as fifty passengers, or upward, and every steamer carrying passengers, which also carries cotton, hay, or hemp, shall be provided with a good double-acting steam fire pump, or other equivalent apparatus for throwing water. Such pump or other apparatus for throwing water shall be kept at all times and at all seasons of the year in good order and ready for immediate use, having at least two pipes of suitable dimensions, one on each side of the vessel, to convey the water to the upper decks, to which pipes there shall be attached, by means of stopcocks or valves, both between decks and on the upper deck, good and suitable hose of sufficient strength to stand a pressure of not less than one hundred pounds to the square inch, long enough to reach to all parts of the vessel and properly provided with nozzles, and kept in good order and ready for immediate service. Each fire pump thus prescribed shall be supplied with water by means of a suitable pipe connected therewith, and passing through the side of the vessel so low as to be at all times under water when she is afloat. Every steamer shall also be provided with a pump which shall be of sufficient strength and suitably arranged to test the boilers thereof.

"On and after October 1, 1937, every passenger vessel with berthed or stateroom accommodation for fifty or more passengers shall be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system, which shall be in addition to any other device or devices for fire protection, of a type prescribed by the Board of Supervising Inspectors and approved by the Secretary of Commerce. All enclosed portions of such vessels accessible to passengers or crew (except cargo holds, machinery spaces, and, when of fire-resisting construction, toilets, bathrooms, and spaces of similar construction) shall be protected by an automatic sprinkler system: *Provided*, That if after investigation the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation finds in the case of a particular vessel the application of this paragraph is unnecessary properly to protect life on such vessel, an exception may be made. The Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation shall cause to be made suitable tests and inspections as will insure the proper working of such systems. In

Steam vessels, fire protection.

R. S. § 4471.

46 U. S. C. § 464;

Supp. IV. § 464.

Fire pump, pipe, and hose requirements.

Pump to test boilers.

Automatic sprinkler system.

*Proviso.*  
Exception.

Tests and inspections.