

SEC. 10. Veterans Regulation Numbered 11 (U. S. C., title 38, ch. 12, appendix), promulgated under the Act of March 20, 1933 (Public, Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress), is hereby amended by adding a new paragraph thereto numbered "III", to read as follows:

"III. The provisions of Veterans Regulation Numbered 11 shall apply to all claims under any of the laws administered by the Veterans' Administration: *Provided*, That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs may release information, statistics, or reports, to individuals or organizations when in his judgment such release would serve a useful purpose."

SEC. 11. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, except as provided in section 19 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, and in section 817 of the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940, the decisions of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs on any question of law or fact concerning a claim for benefits or payments under this or any other Act administered by the Veterans' Administration shall be final and conclusive and no other official or any court of the United States shall have power or jurisdiction to review any such decisions.

SEC. 12. Where any veteran suffers or has suffered an injury, or an aggravation of any existing injury, as the result of having submitted to an examination under authority of any of the laws granting monetary or other benefits to World War veterans, and not the result of his misconduct, and such injury or aggravation results in additional disability to or the death of such veteran, the veteran or his dependents shall be entitled to the same benefits as are provided for those who suffer an injury or an aggravation of any existing injury as a result of training, hospitalization, or medical or surgical treatment under the provisions of section 31 of Public Law Numbered 141, Seventy-third Congress, March 28, 1934. No benefits under this section shall be awarded unless application be made therefor within two years after such injury or aggravation was suffered, or such death occurred, or after the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is the later date.

Approved, October 17, 1940.

[CHAPTER 894]

AN ACT

For the protection of the water supply of the town of Petersburg, Alaska.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the tract of land hereinafter described, situated in the Tongass National Forest in the Territory of Alaska, is hereby reserved from all forms of location, entry, or appropriation, whether under the mineral or nonmineral land laws of the United States, and set aside as a municipal water-supply reserve for the use and benefit of the people of the town of Petersburg, a municipal corporation of the Territory of Alaska as follows, to wit: Beginning at corner numbered 1, from which the quarter section corner between sections 2 and 3, township 59 south, range 79 east, Copper River meridian, bears west forty chains; thence along the top of a divide south fourteen degrees west one hundred and twenty-three and twenty one-hundredths chains to corner numbered 2, at the place where a side ridge intersects the main divide; thence along the top of the main divide south fifty-two degrees east ninety-three and sixty one-hundredths chains to corner numbered 3, located on top of a prominent unnamed peak from which the south-east corner of section 14 township 59 south, range 79 east, bears

48 Stat. 8.
38 U. S. C. §§ 701-721; Supp. V, §§ 701-718.

Disclosure of information.

Proviso.
Release, if serving useful purpose.

Finality of decisions; exceptions.
43 Stat. 612.
38 U. S. C. § 445; Supp. V, § 445.
Ante, p. 1014, § 617.

Uniformity in payment of benefits for specified injuries.

48 Stat. 526.
38 U. S. C. § 501a.
Time for application limited.

October 17, 1940
[H. R. 9173]
[Public, No. 867]

Petersburg, Alaska.
Designated land set aside as municipal water-supply reserve.

Description of tract.

south nineteen degrees west twenty-four chains; thence along top of divide north fifty degrees east thirty-two chains to corner numbered 4 at junction of ridge, extending northeasterly; thence along top of ridge north thirteen degrees east one hundred and sixty chains to corner numbered 5; thence west forty-eight chains to intake dam on unnamed creek, from which the town of Petersburg draws its domestic water supply; thence west fifty-eight and forty one-hundredths chains to the place of beginning, containing one thousand six hundred and twenty-seven acres.

Administration.

SEC. 2. The lands hereinbefore described and reserved for municipal water-supply purposes, which are within the Tongass National Forest, shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, for the purpose of storing, conserving, and protecting from pollution the said water supply, and preserving, improving, and increasing the timber growth on said lands, to more fully accomplish such purposes; and to that end said municipality shall have the right, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, to the use of any and all parts of the lands reserved for the storage and conveying of water and construction and maintenance thereon of all improvements for such purposes: *Provided*, That the merchantable timber on the land to be used by the said municipality may be sold by the Secretary of Agriculture under rules and regulations to be prescribed by him: *And provided further*, That the right to the use by the town of Petersburg of the lands reserved by this Act shall terminate upon the abandonment of the use by such municipality in accordance with the terms of this Act, and upon a finding of such nonuse or abandonment, for a period of two years, by the Secretary of Agriculture, whereupon the reservation created by this Act shall terminate to the extent of such lands involved.

Right of municipality.

Provisions. Sale of timber.

Reversionary provisions.

Regulations.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized to prescribe and enforce such regulations as may be found necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act, including the right to forbid persons other than those authorized by him and the municipal authorities of said municipal corporation from entering or otherwise trespassing upon these lands, and any violation of this Act or of regulations issued thereunder shall be a misdemeanor and shall be punishable as is provided for in section 5050, Compiled Laws of Alaska, 1933.

Prior rights.

SEC. 4. Nothing herein contained shall affect any valid right or claim to any part of said lands heretofore acquired under any law of the United States.

Approved, October 17, 1940.

[CHAPTER 895]

AN ACT

Authorizing the improvement of certain rivers and harbors in the interest of the national defense, and for other purposes.

October 17, 1940
[H. R. 9972]
[Public, No. 868]

Rivers and harbors. Improvements in interest of national defense. *Ante*, p. 506.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following works of improvement of rivers, harbors, and other waterways are hereby adopted and authorized, to be prosecuted in the interest of the national defense under the direction of the Secretary of War and supervision of the Chief of Engineers, in accordance with the plans recommended in the respective reports hereinafter designated and subject to conditions set forth therein:

Maine.

Kennebec River, Maine; improvement in accordance with the report on file in the Office, Chief of Engineers;

Massachusetts.

Boston Harbor, Massachusetts; House Documents Numbered 225 and 362, Seventy-sixth Congress;