

Terms of district court.

southern division of said district. Terms of the district court for the northern division shall be held at Bellingham on the first Tuesdays in April and October; at Seattle on the first Tuesdays in May and November; and for the southern division, at Tacoma on the first Tuesdays in February and July. The clerks of the courts for the eastern and western districts shall maintain an office in charge of himself or a deputy at each place in their respective districts where terms of court are required to be held."

Approved December 28, 1945.

Clerks' offices.

[CHAPTER 597]

AN ACT

December 28, 1945
[H. R. 3759]
[Public Law 277]

To provide the Navy with a system of laws for the settlement of claims uniform with that of the Army.

Damage claims,
Navy Department or
Navy.
Powers of Secretary.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy and his designees are authorized to exercise with respect to any claim against the United States for damages to or loss or destruction of property, real or personal, or for personal injury or death, caused by military personnel or civilian employees of the Navy Department, or of the Navy while acting within the scope of their employment, or otherwise incident to noncombat activities of the Navy Department or of the Navy, the respective powers conferred upon the Secretary of War and his designees by the Act of July 3, 1943 (57 Stat. 372) as amended by the Act of May 29, 1945 (Public Law 67, Seventy-ninth Congress).

31 U. S. C., Supp.
IV, §§ 223b, 223c, 215-
217, 222a, 222b.
Ante, p. 225.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Navy and his designees are further authorized to exercise with respect to claims of military personnel or civilian employees of the Navy Department or of the Navy for damages to or loss, destruction, capture, or abandonment of personal property occurring incident to their service, the respective powers conferred upon the Secretary of War and his designees by the Act of May 29, 1945 (Public Law 67, Seventy-ninth Congress).

Ante, p. 225.

Availability of ap-
propriations.

SEC. 3. Such appropriations as may be required for the payment of claims under the provisions of this Act are hereby authorized. Appropriations available to the Navy Department shall be available for the settlement of claims by the Secretary of the Navy or his designees under the provisions of this Act.

31 U. S. C. §§ 215-
217; Supp. IV, §§ 215-
217 notes.

34 U. S. C., Supp.
IV, §§ 984-989.
Ante, p. 578.

SEC. 4. The Act of December 28, 1922 (42 Stat. 1066), shall be inapplicable to the Navy Department sixty days after approval of this Act, and the Act approved October 27, 1943 (57 Stat. 582), is hereby repealed.

Approved December 28, 1945.

[CHAPTER 598]

AN ACT

December 28, 1945
[H. R. 3995]
[Public Law 278]

To extend the provisions of the Act of July 14, 1945, providing for an adjustment of salaries of the Metropolitan Police, the United States Park Police, the White House Police, and the members of the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, to pilots and marine engineers of the Fire Department.

D. C. Fire Depart-
ment.
Pilots and marine
engineers.
Ante, p. 471.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for an adjustment of salaries of the Metropolitan Police, the United States Park Police, the White House Police, and the members of the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, to conform with the increased cost of living in the District of Columbia", approved July 14, 1945, is repealed.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect as of the first day of the calendar month in which it is enacted.

Approved December 28, 1945.

[CHAPTER 599]

AN ACT

To amend section 74 of the Judicial Code, as amended, to change the terms of the District Court for the District of Connecticut.

December 28, 1945
[H. R. 4100]
[Public Law 279]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 74 of the Judicial Code, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows: "The State of Connecticut shall constitute one judicial district to be known as the 'district of Connecticut'. Terms of the district court shall be held at New Haven on the second Tuesday in February and the third Tuesday in September; and at Hartford on the second Tuesday in May and the first Tuesday in December."

Connecticut judicial district.
36 Stat. 1108.
28 U. S. C. § 147.
Terms of district court.

Approved December 28, 1945.

[CHAPTER 600]

AN ACT

To authorize an investigation of means of increasing the capacity and security of the Panama Canal.

December 28, 1945
[H. R. 4480]
[Public Law 280]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Governor of the Panama Canal, under the supervision of the Secretary of War, is hereby authorized and directed to make a comprehensive review and study, with approximate estimates of costs, of the means for increasing the capacity and security of the Panama Canal to meet future needs of interoceanic commerce and national defense, including restudy of the construction of additional facilities for the Panama Canal authorized by the Act approved August 11, 1939 (53 Stat. 1409). He shall also make such study without drafting plans or sketches as he may deem desirable to permit him to determine whether a canal or canals at other locations, including consideration of any new means of transporting ships across land, may be more useful to meet the future needs of interoceanic commerce or national defense than can the present canal with improvements. He shall report thereon to the Congress, through the Secretary of War and the President, not later than December 31, 1947.

Panama Canal.
Study authorized and directed.

48 U. S. C. § 1307
note.

Report.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sum as may be necessary to insure the prompt and efficient completion of the study and report authorized hereunder.

Appropriation authorized.

Approved December 28, 1945.

[CHAPTER 601]

AN ACT

To provide for the appointment of additional commissioned officers in the Regular Army, and for other purposes.

December 28, 1945
[H. R. 4587]
[Public Law 281]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is hereby declared the policy of the Congress to provide for the immediate selection for appointment in the Regular Army in a fair and equitable manner of a limited number of persons who, by their outstanding performance of duties while serving as temporary officers of the Army of the United States during the present wars, have demonstrated their

Regular Army.
Policy of Congress.