

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.

fitness to hold commissioned grade in the Regular Army; and to provide a minimum increase in the commissioned officer strength of the Regular Army for that purpose.

Commissioned strength.

Graduates of U. S. Military Academy.

SEC. 2. On and after the effective date of this Act, the commissioned strength of the Regular Army shall not exceed twenty-five thousand officers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the foregoing limitation on the commissioned strength of the Regular Army, graduates of the United States Military Academy may be promoted and commissioned as second lieutenants in the Regular Army in accordance with the provisions of the Act of May 17, 1886 (24 Stat. 50; 10 U. S. C. 486).

Appointment, etc., of additional officers.

SEC. 3. The President is authorized to bring the actual commissioned strength of the Regular Army up to the commissioned strength specified in section 2 of this Act by the appointment and commissioning of additional officers, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in such arms and services of the Regular Army as he may prescribe. Appointments of such additional commissioned officers may be made in accordance with any existing provision of law providing for the appointment of commissioned officers in the Regular Army, or as hereinafter provided.

Appointments in designated grades. Time limitation.

SEC. 4. At any time not later than a date eight months following the date of enactment of this Act, the President is authorized to appoint and commission additional officers in the Regular Army, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in the grades of second lieutenant, first lieutenant, captain, and major, subject to the conditions and limitations hereinafter set forth. Persons appointed under the provisions of this section shall—

Qualifications.

(a) be male citizens of the United States, at least twenty-one years of age, of good moral character, physically qualified for active military service, and have such other qualifications as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War; and shall

(b) have served honorably in the active Federal service as commissioned officers of the Army of the United States, or any component thereof, on or after December 7, 1941, in grades equal to or higher than those prescribed in section 5 of this Act for officers credited with the amounts of service with which they would be credited under that section if appointed in the Regular Army.

Service credits.

SEC. 5. Each person appointed as a commissioned officer of the Regular Army under the provisions of section 4 of this Act shall be credited, at the time of appointment, with service equivalent to the total period of active Federal service performed by him after attaining the age of twenty-one years as a commissioned officer in the Army of the United States or any component thereof from December 7, 1941, to the date of such appointment, or a period of service equal to the number of days, months, and years by which his age at the time of such appointment exceeds twenty-five years, whichever is the greater: *Provided*, That in computing the total period of active commissioned Federal service of any such person who was honorably discharged or relieved from active service subsequent to May 12, 1945, there shall also be credited the period from the date of his discharge or relief from active service to the date of his appointment in the Regular Army under the provisions of section 4 of this Act. Upon the basis of service so credited, the grade in which each such person shall be appointed shall be determined as follows:

Determination of grade.

(a) Persons appointed in arms or services of the Regular Army, the officers of which are on the promotion list, who are credited with less than three years' service shall be appointed in the grade of second lieutenant; such persons who are credited with three or more years' service, but less than ten years' service, shall be appointed in the

grade of first lieutenant; such persons who are credited with ten or more years' service, but less than seventeen years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of captain; and such persons who are credited with seventeen or more years' service, but less than twenty-three years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of major. Such persons shall be placed on the promotion list immediately below those officers of the same grade having the same or next greater period of service;

(b) Persons appointed in the Medical Corps, the Dental Corps, or the Veterinary Corps of the Regular Army, or as chaplains in the Regular Army, who are credited with less than three years' service shall be appointed in the grade of first lieutenant; such persons who are credited with three or more years' service, but less than twelve years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of captain; and such persons who are credited with twelve or more years' service, but less than twenty years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of major;

Medical, etc., Corps; chaplains.

(c) Persons appointed in the Medical Administrative Corps of the Regular Army who are credited with less than five years' service shall be appointed in the grade of second lieutenant; such persons who are credited with five or more years' service, but less than ten years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of first lieutenant; and such persons who are credited with ten or more years' service, but less than seventeen years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of captain;

Medical Administrative Corps.

(d) Persons appointed in the Pharmacy Corps of the Regular Army who are credited with less than three years' service shall be appointed in the grade of second lieutenant; such persons who are credited with three or more years' service, but less than six years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of first lieutenant; such persons who are credited with six or more years' service, but less than twelve years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of captain; and such persons who are credited with twelve or more years' service, but less than twenty years' service, shall be appointed in the grade of major.

Pharmacy Corps.

SEC. 6. No person shall be appointed as a commissioned officer of the Regular Army under the provisions of section 4 of this Act—

Restrictions on appointments.

(a) in a promotion-list arm or service if he would upon appointment receive credit with twenty-three or more years' service under section 5 of this Act;

(b) in the Medical Corps, the Dental Corps, the Veterinary Corps, the Pharmacy Corps, or as a chaplain, if he would upon appointment receive credit for twenty or more years' service under section 5 of this Act; or

(c) in the Medical Administrative Corps if he would upon appointment receive credit for seventeen or more years' service under section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 7. For the purpose of determining eligibility for promotion, each person appointed as a commissioned officer of the Regular Army under the provisions of section 4 of this Act shall be credited, as of the time of such appointment, with continuous commissioned service on the active list of the Regular Army equal to the period of service credited to him under section 5 of this Act. Each such person appointed in a promotion-list arm or service in the grade of major shall be deemed to have served in that grade during that portion of such credited service which exceeds seventeen years.

Eligibility for promotion, determination of.

SEC. 8. The first proviso of section 3 of the Act of July 31, 1935 (49 Stat. 506), as amended by section 2 of the Act of June 13, 1940 (54 Stat. 380), is hereby further amended by deleting therefrom the words "seven hundred and five" and substituting therefor the words "one thousand and fifty-four".

Promotion-list colonels.
10 U. S. C. § 552a.

Approved December 28, 1945.