

Termination when private stations able to meet requirements.

Pacific coast of the United States, Hawaii, Alaska, and the Orient, shall not be less than the rates charged by privately owned and operated stations for like messages and service: *Provided further*, That the right to use such stations for any of the purposes named in this section, except for the reception and transmission of press messages, other than press messages between the Atlantic coast of the United States and ships at sea, shall terminate and cease as between any countries or localities or between any locality and privately operated ships, whenever privately owned and operated stations are capable of meeting the normal communication requirements between such countries or localities or between any locality and privately operated ships, and the Secretary of Commerce shall have notified the Secretary of the Navy thereof, and all rights conferred by this section shall terminate and cease on June 30, 1925, except that all such rights conferred by this section in the Republic of China shall terminate and cease on January 1, 1924.

Final termination.

Approved, April 14, 1922.

April 20, 1922.  
[H. R. 10864.]  
[Public, No. 194.]

**CHAP. 134.**—An Act To authorize an appropriation to enable the Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau to provide for the construction of additional hospital facilities and to provide medical, surgical, and hospital services and supplies for persons who served in the World War, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the Boxer Rebellion, and are patients of the United States Veterans' Bureau.

Hospitals, etc., for World War service patients.  
Additional facilities by purchase of plants, etc., to be provided.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, subject to the approval of the President, is hereby authorized to provide additional hospital and outpatient dispensary facilities for persons who served in the World War and are patients of the United States Veterans' Bureau, by purchase and remodeling or extension of existing plants, and by construction on sites now owned by the Government or on sites to be acquired by purchase, condemnation, gift, or otherwise, such hospitals and outpatient dispensary facilities to include the necessary buildings and auxiliary structures, mechanical equipment, approach work, roads, and trackage facilities leading thereto, vehicles, live stock, furniture, equipment and accessories, and also to provide accommodations for officers, nurses, and attending personnel; and also to provide proper and suitable recreational centers; and the Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau is authorized to accept gifts or donations for any of the purposes named herein. Such hospital plants shall be of fireproof construction and the location and nature thereof, whether for the treatment of tuberculosis, neuropsychiatric, or general medical and surgical cases, shall be in the discretion of the Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, subject to the approval of the President: *Provided, however*, That the Director, with the approval of the President, may utilize such suitable buildings, structures, and grounds, now owned by the United States, as may be available for the purposes aforesaid, and the President is hereby authorized, by Executive order, to transfer any such buildings, structures, and grounds to the United States Veterans' Bureau upon the request of the Director thereof.

Equipment, facilities, etc., included.

Acceptance of donations, etc.

Construction, etc., requirements.

*Proviso.*  
Utilization of Government owned buildings, etc.

Technical, etc., services for construction purposes authorized.

**SEC. 2.** That the construction of new hospitals or dispensaries, or the extension, alteration, remodeling, or repair of all hospitals or dispensaries heretofore or hereafter constructed shall be done in such manner as the President may determine, and he is authorized to require the architectural, engineering, constructing, or other forces of any of the departments of the Government to do or assist in such work, and to employ individuals and agencies not now connected

with the Government, if in his opinion desirable, at such compensation as he may consider reasonable.

SEC. 3. That for carrying into effect the preceding paragraphs relating to additional hospital and outpatient dispensary facilities there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$17,000,000, to be immediately available and to remain available until expended. That not to exceed 3 per centum of this sum shall be available for the employment in the District of Columbia and in the field of necessary technical and clerical assistants at the customary rates of compensation, exclusively to aid in the preparation of the plans and specifications for the projects authorized herein and for the supervision of the execution thereof, and for traveling expenses, field-office equipment and supplies in connection therewith.

SEC. 4. That all hospital facilities under the control and jurisdiction of the United States Veterans' Bureau shall be available for veterans of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the Boxer Rebellion, suffering from neuropsychiatric and tubercular ailments and diseases.

Approved, April 20, 1922.

Amount authorized to be appropriated.  
Post, p. 507.

Allowance for technical assistance, supplies, etc.

Facilities extended to Spanish War, etc., veterans.

CHAP. 135.—An Act Authorizing the Comptroller General of the United States to allow credits to and relieve certain disbursing officers of the War and Navy Departments in the settlement of certain accounts.

April 21, 1922.  
[H. R. 10429.]  
[Public, No. 195.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Comptroller General of the United States be, and he hereby is authorized, through such officer as he may designate, and within two years from the passage of this Act, (a) to relieve disbursing officers or special disbursing agents of the War and Navy Departments from accountability or responsibility for losses, occurring between April 6, 1917, and November 18, 1921, of funds, or of accounts, papers, records, vouchers, or data pertaining to said funds, for which said officers or agents were accountable or responsible; and (b) to allow credits, in the settlement of accounts of said officers or agents, for payments made in good faith on public account during said period, notwithstanding failure to comply with requirements of existing law or regulations pursuant thereto: *Provided*, That in cases of losses or payments involving more than \$1,000 the Comptroller General shall exercise the authority herein only upon the written recommendation of the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy, which recommendation shall also set forth the facts relative to such loss or payment: *Provided further*, That the Comptroller General in all cases shall certify that the transactions, expenditures, losses, or payments appear to be free from fraud or collusion.

World War service accounts.  
Army and Navy disbursing officers relieved from losses incurred in.

Credits for irregular payments.

*Proviso.*  
Requirement if over \$1,000 involved.

Freedom from fraud requisite.

Approved, April 21, 1922.

CHAP. 136.—An Act To advance Major Benjamin S. Berry to the permanent rank of major.

April 21, 1922.  
[H. R. 2556.]  
[Public, No. 196.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to place Major Benjamin S. Berry, United States Marine Corps, on the lineal list of officers of the Marine Corps, to take rank among the permanent majors of the Marine Corps, next after Lauren S. Willis, United States

Marine Corps.  
Benjamin S. Berry advanced on list of majors.