

February 7, 1931.

[H. R. 14043.]

[Public, No. 615.]

CHAP. 114.—An Act To authorize the Secretary of War to lease Governors Island, Massachusetts, to the city of Boston, Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

Governors Island, Mass.

Lease of, to Boston, for airport purposes, authorized.

Underwater lands included.

Improvements by municipality.

Federal boundaries to be readjusted.

Conveyances.

Extent of terms.

Reversionary clause.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to lease to the city of Boston, Massachusetts, for airport purposes, the lands of the United States in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, known as Governors Island, including the underwater lands of the United States pertaining thereto, for use as a municipal airport, such lease to be for such term or terms and subject to such terms and conditions as, in the discretion of the Secretary of War, shall be advisable.

SEC. 2. Any lease or leases executed pursuant to this Act may provide for the grading and filling by the city of Boston of Governors Island and the underwater lands pertaining thereto to such extent as in the opinion of the Secretary of War may be necessary in order to render such property suitable for airport purposes.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of War may readjust and establish boundary lines between the property of the United States, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and/or others owning lands adjacent to or in the neighborhood of Governors Island to such extent as in the opinion of the Secretary of War may be in the interests of the United States; and in effecting such adjustment of boundaries the Secretary of War is authorized to execute conveyances on behalf of the United States and to accept conveyances to the United States of such tract or tracts as may be necessary. The terms of this Act shall apply to any lands acquired in effecting the adjustment herein authorized.

SEC. 4. Any lease or leases executed by the Secretary of War under the authority of this Act shall reserve to the United States the right to utilize the present area of Governors Island, or the areas included within the boundary lines established as herein provided, for military purposes in case of need, and, in his discretion, to resume exclusive possession of the entire area of the lands of the United States or any part thereof for military purposes without cost or expense to the United States.

Approved, February 7, 1931.

February 10, 1931.

[S. 5776.]

[Public, No. 616.]

CHAP. 117.—An Act To provide for the advance planning and regulated construction of public works, for the stabilization of industry, and for aiding in the prevention of unemployment during periods of business depression.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Employment Stabilization Act of 1931."

Definitions.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 2. When used in this Act—

"Board."

(a) The term "board" means the Federal Employment Stabilization Board established by section 3 of this Act;

"United States."

(b) The term "United States," when used in a geographical sense, includes the several States and Territories and the District of Columbia;

"Public works emergency appropriation."

(c) The term "public works emergency appropriation" means an appropriation made in pursuance of supplemental estimates transmitted to the Congress under the provisions of this Act.

"Construction agencies."

(d) The term "construction agencies" shall mean the following departments, bureaus, and independent agencies and such others as the President may designate from time to time:

Other designations.

Of the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Public Roads, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Dairy Industry, and the Bureau of Animal Industry;

Of the Department of Commerce, the Aeronautics Branch, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Bureau of Fisheries, and the Bureau of Lighthouses;

Of the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Park Service;

Of the Department of the Treasury, the Coast Guard, the Public Health Service, and the Office of the Supervising Architect;

Of the Department of War, the office of the Quartermaster General, and the office of the Chief of Engineers;

Of the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Prisons;

Of the Department of the Navy, the Bureau of Yards and Docks;

The Department of Labor;

The Post Office Department;

Of the independent agencies, the Veterans' Administration, the office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, the District of Columbia, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Panama Canal.

(e) The term "construction" shall include also repairs and alterations, and the purchase of such materials, supplies, and equipment as may be necessary as a part of, or incident to, such construction, repairs, or alterations.

(f) The term "authorized construction" shall include those projects which have been specifically authorized by Congress, and those projects which do not require specific legislative authorization, such as repairs and alterations.

FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT STABILIZATION BOARD

SEC. 3. (a) There is hereby established a board to be known as the Federal Employment Stabilization Board, and to be composed of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Labor. It shall be the duty of the board to advise the President from time to time of the trend of employment and business activity and of the existence or approach of periods of business depression and unemployment in the United States or in any substantial portion thereof; to cooperate with the construction agencies in formulating methods of advance planning; to make progress reports; and to perform the other functions assigned to it by this Act.

(b) The board is authorized to appoint, in accordance with the civil-service laws, a director and such experts, and clerical and other assistants, and to make such expenditures (including expenditures for personal services and rent at the seat of Government and elsewhere, for law books, books of reference, and periodicals) as may be necessary for the administration of this Act, and as may be provided for by the Congress from time to time. The compensation of the director and such experts and clerical and other assistants shall be fixed in accordance with the classification Act of 1923, as amended. The director and his staff may be domiciled in and attached to one of the executive departments. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sum as may be necessary for the expenses of the board.

BASIS OF ACTION OF BOARD

SEC. 4. (a) In advising the President the board shall take into consideration the volume, based upon value, of contracts awarded for construction work in the United States, or in any substantial portion

Under Department of Agriculture.

Department of Commerce.

Interior Department.

Treasury Department.

War Department.

Department of Justice.

Navy Department.

Department of Labor

Post Office Department.

Independent agencies.

"Construction" defined.

"Authorized construction."

Federal Employment Stabilization Board.

Composition.

Duties. To advise the President as to trend of employment, etc.

Business depression, etc.

Unemployment. To cooperate in formulating advance planning.

Prepare reports, etc.

Director, experts, and other personal services authorized.

Administrative expenses.

Post, p. 1564.

Salaries in accordance with Classification Act. Vol. 42, p. 1488; Vol. 45, p. 776.

Ante, p. 1003. U. S. C., Supp. IV, p. 25.

May be attached to a department.

Permanent annual appropriations authorized.

Basis of action.

Questions to be considered.

Construction contracts.

thereof, during any three-month period in comparison with the corresponding three-month period of three previous calendar years.

Data furnished by Department of Labor. Index of employment.

(b) The board may also take into consideration the index of employment prepared by the Department of Labor, and any other information concerning employment furnished the Department of Labor or by any other public or private agency, and any other facts which it may consider pertinent.

Public works emergency appropriation.

PUBLIC WORKS EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION

President to transmit recommendations of board to Congress for, whenever business depression exists.

SEC. 5. Whenever, upon recommendation of the board, the President finds that there exists, or that within the six months next following there is likely to exist, in the United States or any substantial portion thereof, a period of business depression and unemployment, he is requested to transmit to the Congress by special message, at such time and from time to time thereafter, such supplemental estimates as he deems advisable for emergency appropriations, to be expended during such period upon authorized construction in order to aid in preventing unemployment and permit the Government to avail itself of the opportunity for speedy, efficient, and economical construction during any such period. Except as provided in this Act, such supplemental estimates shall conform to the provisions of the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921.

To be expended on authorized construction, etc.

Estimates to conform to Budget.

WORKS ON WHICH APPROPRIATION USED

Uses specified.

SEC. 6. Such emergency appropriations are authorized and shall be expended only—

Federal highways. Ante, p. 1031.

(a) For carrying out the provisions of the Federal Highway Act, as now or hereafter amended and supplemented;

River and harbor improvements.

(b) For the preservation and maintenance of existing river and harbor works, and for the prosecution of such projects heretofore and hereafter authorized as may be most desirable in the interest of commerce and navigation;

Flood control. Ante, pp. 1032, 1039.

(c) For prosecuting flood-control projects heretofore or hereafter authorized; and

Public building projects. Vol. 45, p. 919. Ante, p. 1030.

(d) For carrying into effect the provisions of the Public Buildings Act, approved May 25, 1926, as now or hereafter amended and supplemented, in respect of public buildings within and without the District of Columbia.

Other authorized construction.

(e) For prosecuting such other construction as may now or hereafter be authorized by the Congress, and which is or may be included in the six-year advance plans, as hereinafter provided.

Emergency construction.

ACCELERATION OF EMERGENCY CONSTRUCTION

Acceleration stimulated to prevent unemployment, etc.

SEC. 7. For the purpose of aiding in the prevention of unemployment during periods of business depression and of permitting the Government to avail itself of opportunity for speedy, efficient, and economical construction during such periods the President may direct the construction agencies to accelerate during such periods, to such extent as is deemed practicable, the prosecution of all authorized construction within their control.

Advance planning.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Purposes of, declared. For stabilizing industry and employment.

SEC. 8. (a) It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to arrange the construction of public works so far as practicable in such manner as will assist in the stabilization of industry and employment through the proper timing of such construction, and that

to further this object there shall be advance planning, including preparation of detailed construction plans, of public works by the construction agencies and the board.

(b) Each head of a department or independent establishment having jurisdiction over one or more construction agencies shall direct each such construction agency to prepare a six-year advance plan with estimates showing projects allotted to each year. Such estimates shall show separately the estimated cost of land, the estimated cost of new construction, and the estimated annual cost of operation and of repairs and alterations.

(c) Each construction agency shall also prepare a program for prompt commencement and carrying out of an expanded program at any time. This program shall include organization plans. It shall also include the plans for the acquisition of sites and the preparation of advance detailed construction plans for not less than one year in advance, except where in the judgment of the board this would not be practicable.

(d) Such programs, plans, and estimates for the six-year period shall be submitted to the board and to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget. The Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall report to the President from time to time consolidated plans and estimates.

(e) Each construction agency shall keep its six-year plan up-to-date by an annual revision of the plans and estimates for the unexpired years and by annually extending the plan and estimates for an additional year.

(f) The President is requested each year, before recommending the amount of construction appropriations for the next fiscal year to take into consideration the volume of construction in the United States, the state of employment, and the activity of general business.

(g) The board shall collect information concerning advance construction plans and estimates by States, municipalities, and other public and private agencies which may indicate the probable volume of construction within the United States or which may aid the construction agencies in formulating their advance plans.

Approved, February 10, 1931.

Preparation of plans.

Six year advance plan and estimates by each construction agency to be made.

Details to be included.

Emergency program to be prepared.

Organization plans.

Acquisition of sites, advance construction, etc.

Plans, etc., to be submitted.

Revision and extension of plans.

Recommendations of the President.

Volumes of work to be considered.

Information as to advance plans to be collected, etc.

CHAP. 118.—An Act Relating to the naturalization of certain aliens.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no alien shall be debarred from becoming a citizen of the United States on the ground that he withdrew his intention to become a citizen of the United States in order to secure discharge from the military service, if such withdrawal (and the application therefor) and discharge took place after November 11, 1918.

Approved, February 11, 1931.

February 11, 1931.

[H. R. 5627.]

[Public, No. 617.]

Naturalization. Alien not debarred from, if application for, withdrawn since November 11, 1918, to secure military discharge.

Vol. 40, p. 885, amended.

CHAP. 119.—An Act To amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the elimination of the Michigan Avenue grade crossing in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1927.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the elimination of the Michigan Avenue grade crossing in the District of Columbia, and for other

February 12, 1931.

[S. 4211.]

[Public, No. 618.]

District of Columbia. Provision for eliminating Michigan grade crossing modified.