

[CHAPTER 506]

AN ACT

Authorizing the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin, jointly or separately, to acquire bridges now existing or to construct, maintain, and operate a free highway bridge across the Saint Croix River, also known as Lake Saint Croix, at or near Hudson, Wisconsin.

July 17, 1942
[H. R. 4314]
[Public Law 669]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to facilitate interstate commerce, improve the postal service, and provide for military and other purposes the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin, jointly or separately, be, and are hereby, authorized to negotiate and enter into agreements or contracts for the purpose of acquiring by purchase, gift, or condemnation, bridges now existing on or crossing the Saint Croix River, which is also designated as Lake Saint Croix, at or near Hudson, Wisconsin, with the proviso that such bridge or bridges shall thereafter be maintained and operated by such State or States free of tolls, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters", approved March 23, 1906, and subject to the conditions and limitations contained in this Act, or to construct, maintain, and operate a free highway bridge and approaches thereto across the Saint Croix River, also known as Lake Saint Croix, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, at or near Hudson, Wisconsin, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters", approved March 23, 1906, and subject to the conditions and limitations contained in this Act.

Saint Croix River.
Bridges across, at
Hudson, Wis.

Maintenance as free
bridges.

34 Stat. 84.
33 U. S. C. §§ 491-
498.

SEC. 2. There is hereby conferred upon the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin all such rights and powers to enter upon lands and to acquire, condemn, occupy, possess, and use real estate and other property needed for the location, construction, operation, and maintenance of such bridge and its approaches as are possessed by railroad corporations for railroad purposes or by bridge corporations for bridge purposes in the State in which real estate or other property is situated, upon making just compensation therefor, to be ascertained and paid according to the laws of such State, and the proceedings therefor shall be the same as in the condemnation or expropriation of property for purposes in such State.

Right to acquire
real estate, etc.

SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, July 17, 1942.

[CHAPTER 507]

AN ACT

To amend section 7 (a) of the Act of May 21, 1920 (41 Stat. 613), as amended by section 601 of the Act of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 417), to authorize interdepartmental procurement by contract, upon orders placed by the War Department, Navy Department, Treasury Department, Civil Aeronautics Administration, and the Maritime Commission.

July 20, 1942
[S. 2032]
[Public Law 670]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 7 (a) of the Act entitled "An Act making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defense, for the armament thereof, and for the procurement of heavy ordnance for trial and service, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, and for other purposes", approved May 21, 1920 (41 Stat. 613), as amended by section 601 of the Act of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 417; 31 U. S. C. 686), entitled "An Act

Interdepartmental
procurement of sup-
plies and services.

making appropriations for the Legislative Branch of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1933, and for other purposes", is hereby amended to read as follows:

Placement of orders.

Payment.

Adjustments.

Proviso.
Procurement by
contract, etc., for des-
ignated agencies.

Work by private
agencies.

"SEC. 7. (a) Any executive department or independent establishment of the Government, or any bureau or office thereof, if funds are available therefor and if it is determined by the head of such executive department, establishment, bureau, or office to be in the interest of the Government so to do, may place orders with any other such department, establishment, bureau, or office for materials, supplies, equipment, work, or services, of any kind that such requisitioned Federal agency may be in a position to supply or equipped to render, and shall pay promptly by check to such Federal agency as may be requisitioned, upon its written request, either in advance or upon the furnishing or performance thereof, all or part of the estimated or actual cost thereof as determined by such department, establishment, bureau, or office as may be requisitioned; but proper adjustments on the basis of the actual cost of the materials, supplies, or equipment furnished, or work or services performed, paid for in advance, shall be made as may be agreed upon by the departments, establishments, bureaus, or offices concerned: *Provided*, That the War Department, Navy Department, Treasury Department, Civil Aeronautics Administration, and the Maritime Commission may place orders, as provided herein, for materials, supplies, equipment, work, or services, of any kind that any requisitioned Federal agency may be in a position to supply, or to render or to obtain by contract: *Provided further*, That if such work or services can be as conveniently or more cheaply performed by private agencies such work shall be let by competitive bids to such private agencies. Bills rendered, or requests for advance payments made, pursuant to any such order, shall not be subject to audit or certification in advance of payment."

Approved, July 20, 1942.

[CHAPTER 508]

AN ACT

July 20, 1942

[S. 2404]

[Public Law 671]

To authorize officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States to accept decorations, orders, medals, and emblems tendered them by governments of cobelligerent nations or other American republics and to create the decorations to be known as the "Legion of Merit", and the "Medal for Merit".

Members of armed
forces.

Acceptance of deco-
rations from certain
foreign governments.

Proviso.
Decorations previ-
ously bestowed.

"Legion of Merit."
Creation of decora-
tion.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States be, and they are hereby, authorized during the present war and for a year thereafter to accept from the governments of cobelligerent nations or the other American republics such decorations, orders, medals, and emblems, as may be tendered them, and which are conferred by such governments upon members of their own military forces, hereby expressly granting the consent of Congress required for this purpose by clause 8 of section 9, article I, of the Constitution: *Provided*, That any such officer or enlisted man is hereby authorized to accept and wear any decoration, order, medal, or emblem heretofore bestowed upon such person by the government of a cobelligerent nation or of an American republic.

SEC. 2. (1) That there is hereby created a decoration to be known as the "Legion of Merit", which shall have suitable appurtenances and devices and not more than four degrees, and which the President, under such rules and regulations as he shall prescribe, may award to (a) personnel of the armed forces of the United States and of the Government of the Philippines and (b) personnel of the armed