

certain employees of the United States who are veterans of World War II and lost opportunity for probational civil-service appointments by reason of their service in the armed forces of the United States", approved July 31, 1946, is hereby amended by inserting before the proviso in such subsection the following: "Provided, That the grade, time in grade, and rate of compensation of any person so appointed to a position in the postal field service shall, at the time this Act first applies to such person, be not less than the grade, time in grade, and rate of compensation of the lower eligible (whether a substitute or regular employee) receiving the highest automatic rate of compensation at such time, but such adjustment in grade, time in grade, and rate of compensation shall not affect the status of such person as a substitute or regular employee:".

60 Stat. 749.
5 U. S. C. § 645a (a).

Effective date.

Nonapplicability.

SEC. 2. The amendment made by this Act to such Act of July 31, 1946, shall take effect as of August 1, 1946, but shall not apply in the case of any person who has been separated from the postal service prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall not apply to employees of the Railway Mail Service.

Approved April 29, 1950.

[CHAPTER 137]

AN ACT

To require settlers on public lands in Alaska to record notice of their settlement claims in the land office for the district in which the lands are situated, and for other purposes.

April 29, 1950
[H. R. 4289]

[Public Law 493]

Alaska, public lands,
Filing of notice of
settlement claims.
32 Stat. 1029.

43 U. S. C. § 164.

50 Stat. 413.
48 U. S. C. §§ 359,
461-465.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the part of the Act of March 3, 1903 (32 Stat. 1028, 48 U. S. C. sec. 371), which reads: "that the record of said location shall, within ninety days from the date of settlement, be filed for record in the recording district in which the land is situated. Said record shall contain the name of the settler, the date of the settlement, and such a description of the land settled upon, by reference to some natural object or permanent monument, as will identify the same; and, if after the expiration of the said period of five years or at such date as the settler may desire to commute the public surveys of the United States have not been extended over the land located, a patent shall nevertheless issue for the land included within the boundaries of said location as thus recorded, upon proof to be submitted to the register and receiver of the proper land office, upon proof that he is a citizen of the United States, and upon the further proof required by section twenty-two hundred and ninety-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States as heretofore and herein amended, and under the procedure in the obtaining of patents to the unsurveyed lands of the United States, as provided for by section ten of the Act hereby amended, and under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior as hereinbefore provided, without the payment of any purchase price or other charges, except the ordinary office fees and commissions of the register and receiver except one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre on land commuted:" is hereby amended to read as follows: "that within ninety days from the date of settlement on surveyed or unsurveyed lands a notice shall be filed by or on behalf of the settler for record in the United States land office for the district in which the land is situated. Said notice shall contain the name of the settler and the date of the settlement, and such a description of the land settled upon, if surveyed, by legal subdivisions, section, township, and range, or, if

unsurveyed, by reference to some natural object or permanent monument and by a statement if desired, of the approximate latitude and longitude determined from a map of Alaska, as will identify the land; and, if after the expiration of the period of three years, or at such date as the settler may desire to commute, the public surveys of the United States have not been extended over the land located, a patent shall nevertheless issue for the land included within the boundaries of said location as thus recorded, upon proof to be submitted to the manager of the proper land office that the settler is a citizen of the United States, and upon the further proof required by section two hundred and ninety-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States as heretofore and herein amended, and under the procedure in the obtaining of patents to the unsurveyed lands of the United States, as provided for by section ten of the Act hereby amended, and under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior as hereinbefore provided without the payment of any purchase price or other charges, except the ordinary office fees and commissions, and except one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre on the land commuted:”.

43 U. S. C. § 164.

30 Stat. 413.
48 U. S. C. §§ 359,
461-465.

SEC. 2. Any person who at the effective date of this Act is maintaining a settlement claim on surveyed or unsurveyed public land in Alaska shall file notice of the location of his settlement claim in the United States land office for the district in which the land is situated, (a) within ninety days from the effective date of this Act, if notice of the location has not heretofore been filed in the recording district in which the land is situated, or (b) within two years from the effective date of this Act, if notice of the location has heretofore been filed in such recording district.

Persons maintain-
ing claims at effective
date of Act.

SEC. 3. Unless notice of a settlement claim is filed in the proper district land office within the time prescribed by sections 1 and 2 of this Act, the claimant, in making homestead proof or submitting a showing of residence, cultivation and improvements as a basis for a free survey, shall not be given credit for such residence and cultivation as may have taken place prior to the filing of (a) a notice of the claim in the proper district land office, (b) a petition for survey, or (c) an application for homestead entry, whichever is the earlier.

Failure to file with-
in prescribed time.

SEC. 4. A homestead settler on unsurveyed public lands shall make proof of residence, cultivation, and improvements within five years from the date of the filing of notice of the settlement claim in the district land office, as a basis for a free survey under section 2 of the Act of July 8, 1916 (39 Stat. 352, 48 U. S. C., 375), and thereafter shall submit final or commutation proof in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

Proof of residence,
etc.48 U. S. C., Sup. III,
§ 375 note.

SEC. 5. All qualified persons, associations, or corporations now holding or hereafter initiating claims subject to the provisions of section 10, Act of May 14, 1898 (30 Stat. 413, 48 U. S. C., sec. 461), as amended, shall file a notice describing such claim in the manner specified by section 1 of this Act in the United States land office for the district in which the land is situated within ninety days from the effective date of this Act or within ninety days from the date of the initiation of the claim, whichever is later. Unless such notice is filed in the proper district land office within the time prescribed the claimant shall not be given credit for the occupancy maintained in the claim prior to the filing of (1) a notice of the claim in the proper district land office, or (2) an application to purchase, whichever is earlier. Application to purchase claims, along with the required proof or showing, must be filed within five years after the filing of the notice of claim under this section.

Purchasers for trade
or manufacture.48 U. S. C. §§ 359,
461-465.

Approved April 29, 1950.