

New rates, etc.  
Vol. 36, p. 552,  
amended.

Restriction on filing  
increased rates, etc.

Approval by Com-  
mission.

SEC. 4. That paragraph two, section fifteen, of the Act to regulate commerce approved February fourth, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, as amended, be further amended by adding the following: "Provided further, until January first, nineteen hundred and twenty, no increased rate, fare, charge, or classification shall be filed except after approval thereof has been secured from the commission. Such approval may, in the discretion of the commission, be given without formal hearing, and in such case shall not affect any subsequent proceeding relative to such rate, fare, charge, or classification."

Approved, August 9, 1917.

August 10, 1917.

[S. 2356.]

[Public, No. 39.]

Interstate commerce  
regulations.  
Vol. 36, p. 547,  
amended.

Punishment for ob-  
structing movement of  
carriers, etc., during  
present war.

Use of armed forces  
to prevent, etc.

Proviso.  
Labor provisions not  
changed.  
Vol. 38, pp. 731, 738.

Preferential transporta-  
tion of national de-  
fense commodities.

Officials to issue  
orders, etc.

Compensation, ex-  
penses, etc.

CHAP. 51.—An Act To amend the Act to regulate commerce, as amended, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section one of the act entitled "An Act to regulate commerce," approved February fourth, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, as heretofore amended, be further amended by adding thereto the following:

"That on and after the approval of this Act any person or persons who shall, during the war in which the United States is now engaged, knowingly and willfully, by physical force or intimidation by threats of physical force obstruct or retard, or aid in obstructing or retarding, the orderly conduct or movement in the United States of interstate or foreign commerce, or the orderly make-up or movement or disposition of any train, or the movement or disposition of any locomotive, car, or other vehicle on any railroad or elsewhere in the United States engaged in interstate or foreign commerce shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and for every such offense shall be punishable by a fine of not exceeding \$100 or by imprisonment for not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and the President of the United States is hereby authorized, whenever in his judgment the public interest requires, to employ the armed forces of the United States to prevent any such obstruction or retardation of the passage of the mail, or of the orderly conduct or movement of interstate or foreign commerce in any part of the United States, or of any train, locomotive, car, or other vehicle upon any railroad or elsewhere in the United States engaged in interstate or foreign commerce: *Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to repeal, modify, or affect either section six or section twenty of an Act entitled 'An Act to supplement existing laws against unlawful restraints and monopolies, and for other purposes,' approved October fifteenth, nineteen hundred and fourteen.

"That during the continuance of the war in which the United States is now engaged the President is authorized, if he finds it necessary for the national defense and security, to direct that such traffic or such shipments of commodities as, in his judgment, may be essential to the national defense and security shall have preference or priority in transportation by any common carrier by railroad, water, or otherwise. He may give these directions at and for such times as he may determine, and may modify, change, suspend, or annul them, and for any such purpose he is hereby authorized to issue orders direct, or through such person or persons as he may designate for the purpose or through the Interstate Commerce Commission. Officials of the United States, when so designated, shall receive no compensation for their services rendered hereunder. Persons not in the employ of the United States so designated shall receive such compensation as the President may fix. Suitable offices may be



rented and all necessary expenses, including compensation of persons so designated, shall be paid as directed by the President out of funds which may have been or may be provided to meet expenditures for the national security and defense. The common carriers subject to the Act to regulate commerce or as many of them as desire so to do are hereby authorized without responsibility or liability on the part of the United States, financial or otherwise, to establish and maintain in the city of Washington during the period of the war an agency empowered by such carriers as join in the arrangement to receive on behalf of them all notice and service of such orders and directions as may be issued in accordance with this Act, and service upon such agency shall be good service as to all the carriers joining in the establishment thereof. And it shall be the duty of any and all the officers, agents, or employees of such carriers by railroad or water or otherwise to obey strictly and conform promptly to such orders, and failure knowingly and willfully to comply therewith, or to do or perform whatever is necessary to the prompt execution of such order, shall render such officers, agents, or employees guilty of a misdemeanor, and any such officer, agent, or employee shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, in the discretion of the court. For the transportation of persons or property in carrying out the orders and directions of the President, just and reasonable rates shall be fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission; and if the transportation be for the Government of the United States, it shall be paid for currently or monthly by the Secretary of the Treasury out of any funds not otherwise appropriated. Any carrier complying with any such order or direction for preference or priority herein authorized shall be exempt from any and all provisions in existing law imposing civil or criminal pains, penalties, obligations, or liabilities upon carriers by reason of giving preference or priority in compliance with such order or direction."

Approved, August 10, 1917.

**CHAP. 52.**—An Act To provide further for the national security and defense by stimulating agriculture and facilitating the distribution of agricultural products.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, for the purpose of more effectually providing for the national security and defense and carrying on the war with Germany by gathering authoritative information concerning the food supply, by increasing production, by preventing waste of the food supply, by regulating the distribution thereof, and by such other means and methods as are hereinafter provided, the powers, authorities, duties, obligations, and prohibitions hereinafter set forth are conferred and prescribed.

**SEC. 2.** That the Secretary of Agriculture, with the approval of the President, is authorized to investigate and ascertain the demand for, the supply, consumption, costs, and prices of, and the basic facts relating to the ownership, production, transportation, manufacture, storage, and distribution of, foods, food materials, feeds, seeds, fertilizers, agricultural implements and machinery, and any article required in connection with the production, distribution, or utilization of food. It shall be the duty of any person, when requested by the Secretary of Agriculture, or any agent acting under his instructions, to answer correctly, to the best of his knowledge, under oath or otherwise, all questions touching his knowledge of any matter authorized to be investigated under this section, or to produce all books, letters, papers, or documents in his possession, or under his

Carriers may have agencies in Washington to receive notices, orders, etc.

Order to be complied with.

Penalty for failure.

Rates for transportation to be fixed by Commission.

Preferences exempt from penalties, etc.

August 10, 1917.  
[H. R. 4188.]

[Public, No. 40.]

Agricultural food products, etc.  
Powers conferred to gather information, increase supply, etc.

Investigation of demand, production, distribution, etc., of designated articles.

Compulsory testimony, etc.