

[CHAPTER 142]

AN ACT

June 23, 1943
[H. R. 131]
[Public Law 87]

To provide reemployment rights for persons who leave their positions to serve in the merchant marine, and for other purposes.

Merchant marine.
Reemployment
rights.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when used in this Act the term "service in the merchant marine" means service as an officer or member of the crew on or in connection with a vessel documented under the laws of the United States or a vessel owned by, chartered to, or operated by or for the account or use of the Administrator, as an enrollee in the United States Maritime Service on active duty, and, to such extent as the Administrator shall prescribe, any period awaiting assignment to such service and any period of education or training for such service in any school or institution under the jurisdiction of the Administrator. Any person entering service in the merchant marine after May 1, 1940, and before the termination of the unlimited national emergency declared by the President on May 27, 1941, who, in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the Administrator, War Shipping Administration, completes a period of substantially continuous service in the merchant marine, shall be entitled to a certificate to that effect from the Administrator upon completion of such period, which shall include a record of any special proficiency or merit obtained.

Certificate upon
completion of service.

55 Stat. 1647.
50 U. S. C., Supp.
II, app., note prec. § 1.

Requirements for re-
employment.

SEC. 2. (a) In the case of any such person who, in order to perform service in the merchant marine, has left or leaves a position, other than a temporary position, in the employ of any employer and who (1) receives such certificate, (2) is still qualified to perform the duties of such position, and (3) makes application for reemployment within forty days after completion of such service—

(A) if such position was in the employ of the United States Government, its Territories or possessions, or the District of Columbia, such person shall be restored to such position or to a position of like seniority, status, and pay;

(B) if such position was in the employ of a private employer, such employer shall restore such person to such position or to a position of like seniority, status, and pay unless the employer's circumstances have so changed as to make it impossible or unreasonable to do so;

(C) if such position was in the employ of any State or political subdivision thereof, it is hereby declared to be the sense of the Congress that such person should be restored to such position or to a position of like seniority, status, and pay.

Status upon restora-
tion.

(b) Any person who is restored to a position in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a) shall be considered as having been on furlough or leave of absence during his period of service, shall be so restored without loss of seniority, shall be entitled to participate in insurance or other benefits offered by the employer pursuant to established rules and practices relating to employees on furlough or leave of absence in effect with the employer at the time such person entered such service, and shall not be discharged from such position without reasonable cause within one year after such restoration.

Remedy against pri-
vate employer.

SEC. 3. In case any private employer fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of section 2, the district court of the United States for the district in which such private employer maintains a place of business shall have power, upon the filing of a motion, petition, or other appropriate pleading by the person entitled to the benefits of such provisions, to specifically require such employer to comply with

such provisions, and, as an incident thereto, to compensate such person for any loss of wages or benefits suffered by reason of such employer's unlawful action. The court shall order a speedy hearing in any such case and shall advance it on the calendar. Upon application to the United States district attorney or comparable official for the district in which such private employer maintains a place of business, by any person claiming to be entitled to the benefits of such provisions, such United States district attorney or official, if reasonably satisfied that the person so applying is entitled to such benefits, shall appear and act as attorney for such person in the amicable adjustment of the claim or in the filing of any motion, petition, or other appropriate pleading and the prosecution thereof to specifically require such employer to comply with such provisions: *Provided*, That no fees or court costs shall be taxed against the person so applying for such benefits.

SEC. 4. Employees of the United States Government, its Territories or possessions, or the District of Columbia (including employers of any corporation created under authority of an Act of Congress which is either wholly controlled or wholly owned by the United States Government, or any corporation, all the stock of which is owned or controlled by the United States Government, or any department, agency, or establishment thereof, whether or not the employees thereof are paid from funds appropriated by Congress), who, subsequent to May 1, 1940, shall have entered upon service in the merchant marine, shall be entitled to receive, in addition to any pay for such service, compensation in their civilian positions covering their accumulated or current accrued leave, or to elect to have such leave remain to their credit until their return from such service.

SEC. 5. The Administrator, War Shipping Administration, may make such rules and regulations as he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved June 23, 1943.

[CHAPTER 143]

AN ACT

To extend the times for commencing and completing the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River at or near Memphis, Tennessee.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the times for commencing and completing the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River, at or near Memphis, authorized to be built by the Memphis and Arkansas Bridge Commission by an Act of Congress approved August 10, 1939, and heretofore extended by an Act of Congress approved September 27, 1940, are further extended two and four years, respectively, from August 10, 1942.

SEC. 2. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved June 23, 1943.

[CHAPTER 144]

AN ACT

Relating to the use and operation by the United States of certain plants, mines, and facilities in the prosecution of the war, and preventing strikes, lock-outs, and stoppages of production, and for other purposes.

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 "War Labor Disputes Act".

Representation by
U. S. district at-
torney.

Fees or costs.

Government em-
ployees.
Compensation or
credit for leave.

Rules and regula-
tions.

June 23, 1943
[H. R. 1702]
[Public Law 88]

Mississippi River.
Time extended for
bridging, at Memphis,
Tenn.

53 Stat. 1338; 54
Stat. 962.

June 25, 1943
[S. 796]
[Public Law 89]

War Labor Disputes
Act.