

Secretary. While so serving the officer shall have the rank of captain in the Navy and shall receive the pay and allowances now or hereafter prescribed by law for that rank and his permanent status as a commissioned officer of the Medical Service Corps shall not be disturbed by reason of such appointment.

Retired pay.

“(b) An officer of the Medical Service Corps who is retired for any reason while serving as Chief of the Medical Service Corps, or who having so served for two and one-half years or more is subsequently retired while serving in a lower grade, may, in the discretion of the President, be retired with the rank held by him while serving as Chief of the Medical Service Corps and with retired pay based on the active-duty pay of that rank.”

Approved August 23, 1954.

Public Law 619

CHAPTER 823

August 23, 1954
[H. R. 6280]

AN ACT

To extend temporarily the rights of priority of nationals of Japan and certain nationals of Germany with respect to applications for patents.

Japanese and German nationals. Patents.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the rights of priority specified in section 1 of Public Law 690, Seventy-ninth Congress, approved August 8, 1946 (60 Stat. 940), which arose before April 1, 1950, are hereby extended, with respect to inventions made subsequent to January 1, 1946, in favor of nationals of Japan, and of nationals of Germany, excluding persons residing in or subject to the jurisdiction of the zone of Germany occupied by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Soviet sector of Berlin or other areas of Germany under Soviet or Polish administration, to a date nine months after the enactment of this Act, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in sections 1, 4, 10, 12, and 15 of said Public Law 690.

For the purpose of this Act, the phrase “passage of this Act” in said Public Law 690 shall be understood to refer to the date of enactment of the present Act.

Approved August 23, 1954.

Public Law 620

CHAPTER 824

August 23, 1954
[H. R. 6885]

AN ACT

To amend section 1 of Joint Resolution 12 enacted by the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii, in the regular session of 1949 and approved by the Eighty-first Congress of the United States of America at the second session (Public Law 746, chapter 833).

Hawaii. Homestead leases.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1 of Joint Resolution 12 enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii in the regular session of 1949 and approved by the Eighty-first Congress of the United States of America, at the second session, Public Law 746, chapter 833, be amended as follows:

64 Stat. 572.

“SECTION 1. A fee simple patent shall be issued to every lessee under a nine hundred and ninety-nine year homestead lease of public lands where such lands have been improved under such lease or pursuant to a prior certificate of occupation and have been occupied as a place of residence by the lessee under such lease or under such lease and certificate of occupation for an aggregate continuous period of not less than ten years, upon the payment to the commissioner of public lands of a

fair price, disregarding the value of the improvements made by the lessee, which price shall be determined by three disinterested citizens to be appointed by the Governor."

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved August 23, 1954.

Effective date.

Public Law 621

CHAPTER 825

AN ACT

August 23, 1954
[H. R. 7334]

To authorize certain property transactions in Cocoli, Canal Zone, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Canal Zone Government and the Panama Canal Company, respectively, are authorized to transfer to the Department of the Navy, without exchange of funds, all or so much of the facilities, buildings, structures, and improvements of the respective transferor agencies situated at or within the town of Cocoli, Canal Zone, as may be mutually acceptable for transfer. Such facilities, buildings, structures, and improvements may be used, among other things, for occupancy by civilian personnel in accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 5, 1928 (ch. 126, 45 Stat. 193), and by personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Public Health Service and their dependents on a rental basis without forfeiture of any rental allowances, including occupancy in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 2, 1945 (ch. 227, 59 Stat. 316): *Provided,* That upon any transfer by the Canal Zone Government under this Act, the capital investment in the transferred facilities, buildings, structures, and improvements shall be eliminated from the investment of the United States in the Canal Zone Government, but shall not be included in the costs of operation of that agency: *And provided further,* That transfers made by the Panama Canal Company under this Act shall be subject to the provisions of section 246 of title 2 of the Canal Zone Code, as added by the Act of June 29, 1948 (ch. 706, sec. 2, 62 Stat. 1076).

Approved August 23, 1954.

Housing facilities at Cocoli, C. Z.
Transfer to Navy.

5 USC 75a.

37 USC 111a.

Public Law 622

CHAPTER 826

AN ACT

August 23, 1954
[H. R. 8570]

To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to dispose of certain uncompleted naval vessels, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to scrap the uncompleted naval vessels Castle (DD-720) and Woodrow R. Thompson (DD-721) and in his discretion to dispose of the materials therefrom by sale or to retain any such materials for further naval use.

SEC. 2. The action of the Department of the Navy in scrapping the uncompleted naval vessels Hoel (DD-768) and Abner Read (DD-769), prior to the enactment of the Act of June 19, 1948 (62 Stat. 492, ch. 521), which authorized the suspension of construction of these vessels, is hereby ratified.

Naval vessels.
Disposal of certain.