Public Law 714

AN ACT

To amend the shipping laws, to prohibit the operation in the coastwise trade of vessels rebuilt outside the United States, 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 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, as amended (U. S. C., 1952 edition, title 46, sec. 883), is further amended by inserting the following new proviso at the end of the first proviso thereof: “Provided further, That no vessel of more than five hundred gross tons which has acquired the lawful right to engage in the coastwise trade, either by virtue of having been built in or documented under the laws of the United States, and which has later been rebuilt outside the United States, its Territories (not including trust territories), or its possessions shall have the right thereafter to engage in the coastwise trade.”

SEC. 2. If any vessel of more than five hundred gross tons documented under the laws of the United States, or last documented under such laws, is rebuilt outside the United States, its Territories (not including trust territories), or its possessions, a report of the circumstances of such rebuilding shall be made to the Secretary of the Treasury upon the first arrival of the vessel thereafter at a port within the customs territory of the United States in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe. If the required report is not made, the vessel, together with its tackle, apparel, equipment, and furniture, shall be forfeited, and the master and owner shall each be liable to a penalty of $200. Any penalty or forfeiture incurred under this Act may be remitted or mitigated by the Secretary under the provisions of section 5294 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (U. S. C., 1952 edition, title 46, sec. 7).

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall be effective from the date of enactment hereof: Provided, however, That no vessel shall be deemed to have lost its coastwise privileges hereunder if it is rebuilt under a contract entered into before such date of enactment and if the work of rebuilding is commenced not later than six months after such date of enactment.

Approved July 14, 1956.

Public Law 715

AN ACT

To authorize payment by the Federal Government of the cost of making certain studies necessary to assist the Menominee Tribe of Indians to prepare for the termination of Federal supervision.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the last sentence of section 6 of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for a per capita distribution of Menominee tribal funds and authorize the withdrawal of the Menominee Tribe from Federal jurisdiction”, approved June 17, 1954 (68 Stat. 250), is amended by changing the period at the end thereof to a comma and by adding “and there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as the Secretary shall deem necessary to reimburse the tribe for the expenditure of tribal funds pursuant to this section, or for any other expenditure of tribal funds
Public Law 716

AN ACT

To ratify and confirm Act 249 of the Session Laws of Hawaii, 1955, as amended, and to authorize the issuance of certain highway revenue bonds by the Territory of Hawaii.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Territory of Hawaii, any provision of the Hawaiian Organic Act or any other Act of Congress to the contrary notwithstanding, is authorized and empowered to issue highway revenue bonds in a sum not to exceed $50,000,000 payable from funds derived from highway vehicle fuel taxes, for the purpose of providing for the construction of highways in the Territory. The issuance of such revenue bonds shall not constitute the incurrence of an indebtedness within the meaning of the Hawaiian Organic Act, and shall not require the approval of the President of the United States.

SEC. 2. All bonds issued under authority of section 1 shall be issued pursuant to legislation enacted by the Legislature of the Territory which shall provide (1) that, so long as any of the bonds are outstanding, highway vehicle fuel taxes shall be levied and collected in amounts at least sufficient to provide for the payment of the principal of the bonds and the interest thereon, as such principal and interest become due (except that interest due upon any such bonds during the first year after their date of issuance may be paid from the proceeds of sale of the bonds); (2) that the superintendent of public works of the Territory, or any officer or agency succeeding to his powers and duties in respect to highways, shall have the power to issue and sell the bonds and to expend the proceeds and provide for the repayment thereof, in accordance with standards and pursuant to provisions which shall be set forth in such legislation; and (3) that the office of the superintendent of public works, or an office or agency succeeding to the powers and duties of that office in respect of highways, shall be continued in existence and shall retain the powers and duties set forth in such legislation, so long as any of the bonds are outstanding.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to prevent the application of Federal-aid highway funds to aid in the retirement of said bonds, to the extent now or hereafter permitted by the Acts of Congress relating to the use of such funds.

SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the term "highway vehicle fuel taxes" means taxes in respect to the fuel for operating a motor vehicle or motor vehicles upon the highways, as defined and imposed by the laws of the Territory of Hawaii, but in the event the legislation providing for such tax levies the same in respect to other fuel and does not provide for the segregation of the taxes in respect to the fuel for operating a motor vehicle or motor vehicles upon the highways, then the term "highway vehicle fuel taxes" includes as well all such taxes in respect to fuel as are commingled with the taxes in respect to the fuel for operating a motor vehicle or motor vehicles upon the highways.

SEC. 5. Act 249 of the Session Laws of Hawaii, 1955, is hereby amended to the extent of inserting in section 5961 therein set forth the public law number as may be assigned to this bill upon its enactment.