

Public Law 88-486

AN ACT

August 22, 1964
[H. R. 7441]

To amend the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to remove dangerous or unsafe buildings and parts thereof, and for other purposes", approved March 1, 1899, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to remove dangerous or unsafe buildings and parts thereof, and for other purposes", approved March 1, 1899 (30 Stat. 923, as amended; title 5, ch. 5, D.C. Code, 1961 edition), is amended by striking the term "inspector of buildings" wherever such term appears therein and inserting in lieu thereof "Commissioners". The first sentence of the first section of such Act, as amended, is amended by striking "his opinion" and inserting in lieu thereof "their opinion" and by striking "he shall" and inserting in lieu thereof "they shall".

D.C.
Unsafe structures, repair or removal.

49 Stat. 105.

SEC. 2. The first section of such Act, as amended (sec. 5-501, D.C. Code, 1961 edition), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"Commissioners."

"The term 'Commissioners' means the Commissioners of the District of Columbia sitting as a board or the agent or agents designated by them to perform any function vested in said Commissioners by this Act."

SEC. 3. Section 3 of such Act, as amended (sec. 5-503, D.C. Code, 1961 edition), is amended by striking the third sentence therefrom.

SEC. 4. Section 4 of the Act of March 1, 1899 (30 Stat. 923), as amended (sec. 5-504, D.C. Code, 1961 edition), is hereby amended (a) by inserting "(a)" immediately after "SEC. 4"; (b) by inserting "any dead, dangerous, or diseased tree, or part thereof," after "excavation," in the first sentence; (c) by striking "excavation," in the second sentence and inserting in lieu thereof "excavation, or any dead, dangerous, or diseased tree, or part thereof,"; (d) by striking "parts thereof or miscellaneous accumulation of material or debris" in such second sentence and inserting in lieu thereof "or parts thereof, any miscellaneous accumulation of material or debris, or any dead or dangerous tree, or part thereof, or the removal or spraying of any diseased tree"; (e) by striking from the second sentence "bear interest at the rate of 10 per centum per annum until paid, and be carried on the regular tax rolls of the District of Columbia and shall be collected in the manner provided for the collection of general taxes" and inserting in lieu thereof "be collected in the manner provided in section 6 of this Act"; (f) by adding at the end of such section 4(a) the following sentence: "Within the meaning of this section, a dead tree shall be any tree with respect to which the Commissioners of the District of Columbia or their designated agent have determined that no part thereof is living; a dangerous tree is any tree or part thereof, living or dead, which the said Commissioners or their designated agent shall find is in such condition and is so located as to constitute a danger to persons or property on public space in the vicinity of such tree; and a diseased tree shall be any tree on private property in such a condition of infection from a major pathogenic disease as to constitute, in the opinion of the said Commissioners or their designated agent, a threat to the health of any other tree."; and (g) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

Trees.
Authority for removal.
49 Stat. 107.

Post, p. 600.

"(b) The authority conferred on the Commissioners under subsection (a) with respect to the removal of dangerous and diseased trees constituting a nuisance shall be exercised by the Commissioners only

after every reasonable effort has been made to abate such nuisance other than by the removal of any such tree, or part thereof."

Cost and expenses.

SEC. 5. Such Act, as amended, is amended by inserting the following sections immediately after section 4, reading as follows:

"SEC. 5. The Commissioners shall determine the cost and expense of any work performed by them under the authority of the first four sections of this Act, including the cost of making good damage to adjoining premises (except such as may have resulted from carelessness and willful recklessness in the demolition or removal of any structure) less the amount, if any, received from the sale of old material, and shall assess such cost and expense upon the lot or ground whereon such structure, excavation, or nuisance stands, stood, was dug, was located, or existed, and this amount shall be collected in the manner provided in section 6 of this Act. Any person, corporation, partnership, syndicate, or company subject to the provisions of the first three sections of this Act who shall neglect or refuse to perform any act required by such sections shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$50 for each and every day said person, corporation, partnership, syndicate, or company fails to perform any act required by such sections.

Taxes, payment.

"SEC. 6. Any tax authorized to be levied and collected under this Act may be paid without interest within sixty days from the date such tax was levied. Interest of one-half of 1 per centum for each month or part thereof shall be charged on all unpaid amounts from the expiration of sixty days from the date such tax was levied. Any such tax may be paid in three equal installments with interest thereon. If any such tax or part thereof shall remain unpaid after the expiration of two years from the date such tax was levied, the property against which said tax was levied may be sold for such tax or unpaid portion thereof with interest and penalties thereon at the next ensuing annual tax sale in the same manner and under the same conditions as property sold for delinquent general real estate taxes, if said tax with interest and penalties thereon shall not have been paid in full prior to said sale."

49 Stat. 107.

SEC. 6. Section 5 of such Act, as amended (sec. 5-505, D.C. Code, 1961 edition), is renumbered "SEC. 7." and is amended to read as follows:

Service of notice.

"SEC. 7. (a) Any notice required by this Act to be served shall be deemed to have been served when served by any of the following methods: (1) When forwarded to the last known address of the owner as recorded in the real estate assessment records of the District of Columbia, by registered or certified mail, with return receipt, and such receipt shall constitute prima facie evidence of service upon such owner if such receipt is signed either by the owner or by a person of suitable age and discretion located at such address: *Provided*, That valid service upon the owner shall be deemed effected if such notice shall be refused by the owner and not delivered for that reason; or (2) when delivered to the person to be notified; or (3) when left at the usual residence or place of business of the person to be notified with a person of suitable age and discretion then resident or employed therein; or (4) if no such residence or place of business can be found in the District of Columbia by reasonable search, then if left with any person of suitable age and discretion employed at the office of any agent of the person to be notified, which agent has any authority or duty with reference to the land or tenement to which said notice relates; or (5) if any such notice forwarded by registered or certified mail be returned for reasons other than refusal, or if personal service of any such notice, as hereinbefore provided, cannot be effected, then if published on three consecutive days in a daily newspaper published

in the District of Columbia; or (6) if by reason of an outstanding unrecorded transfer of title the name of the owner in fact cannot be ascertained beyond a reasonable doubt, then if served on the owner of record in a manner hereinbefore provided. Any notice to a corporation shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to have been served on such corporation if served on the president, secretary, treasurer, general manager, or any principal officer of such corporation in the manner hereinbefore provided for the service of notices on natural persons holding property in their own right, and notices to a foreign corporation shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to have been served if served personally on any agent of such corporation, or if left with any person of suitable age and discretion residing at the usual residence or employed at the usual place of business of such agent in the District of Columbia.

“(b) In case such notice is served by any method other than personal service, a copy of such notice shall also be sent to the owner by ordinary mail.”

SEC. 7. Such Act, as amended, is amended by inserting a new section immediately after section 7, as renumbered by this amendatory Act, reading as follows:

“SEC. 8. Whenever the Commissioners find that any building or part of a building, staging, or other structure, or anything attached to or connected with any building or other structure or excavation shall cause a building to be unsafe for human occupancy, they shall give notice of such fact to the owner or other person having an interest in such building, and to the occupant or occupants thereof. If within five days after such notice has been served upon such owner or other interested person, such building or part thereof has not been made safe for human occupancy, the Commissioners may order the use of such building or part thereof discontinued until it has been made safe: *Provided*, That if in the opinion of the Commissioners the unsafe condition of the building or part thereof is such as to be imminently dangerous to the life or limb of any occupant, the Commissioners may order the immediate discontinuance of the use of such building or part thereof. Any person occupying, or permitting the occupancy of, such building or part thereof in violation of such order of the Commissioners shall be fined not more than \$300 or imprisoned for not more than thirty days.”

SEC. 8. Section 6 of such Act, as amended, is renumbered “SEC. 9.” Approved August 22, 1964.

Evacuation of unsafe buildings, authority.

49 Stat. 108.

Public Law 88-487

AN ACT

To promote the economic and social development of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and for other purposes.

August 22, 1964
[H. R. 3198]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1 of the Act of June 30, 1954 (68 Stat. 330; 48 U.S.C. 1681), is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new subsection (b) and by designating the existing section as subsection (a):

“(b) The head of any department, corporation, or other agency of the executive branch of the Government may, upon the request of the Secretary of the Interior, extend to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, with or without reimbursement, scientific, technical, and other assistance under any program administered by such agency, or extend to the Trust Territory any Federal program administered by

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
Assistance programs.