

United States before the beginning of the first regular session of the Eighty-fourth Congress may be paid the salary for such office as provided by law.

Termination.

SEC. 2. This Act shall cease to be in effect upon the forty-first day following the beginning of the first regular session of the Eighty-fourth Congress unless prior to such day the President shall have submitted to the Senate a nomination to fill such office.

Approved August 31, 1954.

Public Law 736

CHAPTER 1154

JOINT RESOLUTION

August 31, 1954
[H. J. Res. 565]

To amend the joint resolution providing for the membership of the United States in the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and authorize appropriations therefor.

Pan American
Institute of Geog-
raphy and History.
49 Stat. 512.
22 USC 273.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Resolution 42, Seventy-fourth Congress, approved August 2, 1935, is amended to read as follows: "That in order to meet the obligations of the United States as a member of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, there are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State—

"(a) the sum of \$98,775 for payment by the United States of its assessed annual contributions for the period beginning July 1, 1951, and extending through the fiscal year expiring June 30, 1954; and

"(b) such sums, not to exceed \$50,000 annually, as may be required thereafter for the payment by the United States of its share of the expenses of the Institute, as apportioned in accordance with the statutes of the Institute."

Approved August 31, 1954.

Public Law 737

CHAPTER 1155

AN ACT

August 31, 1954
[H. R. 179]

To amend section 7 of the Administrative Expenses Act of 1946, as amended.

Overseas Federal
employees.
Travel expenses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 7 of the Administrative Expenses Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 806; 5 U. S. C. 73b-3), as amended, is further amended by changing the period at the end of the first sentence to a colon and adding the following: "*Provided further*, That expenses of round trip travel of employee and transportation of immediate family but excluding household effects, from their posts of duty outside the continental United States to the places of actual residence at time of appointment or transfer to such overseas posts of duty, shall be allowed in the case of persons who have satisfactorily completed an agreed period of service overseas and are returning to their actual place of residence for the purpose of taking leave prior to serving another tour of duty at the same or some other overseas post, under a new written agreement entered into before departing from the overseas post: *Provided further*, That expenses of transportation of the immediate family and shipment of household effects of any employee from the post of duty of such employee outside continental United States to place of actual residence shall be allowed, not in excess of one time, prior to the return of such employee to the

United States, including its Territories and possessions, when the employee has acquired eligibility for such transportation or when the public interest requires the return of the immediate family for compelling personal reasons of a humanitarian or compassionate nature, such as may involve physical or mental health, death of any member of the immediate family, or obligation imposed by authority or circumstances over which the individual has no control: *And provided further*, That when an employee returns his immediate family and household goods to the United States, including its Territories and possessions, at his own expense prior to his return and for other than reasons of public interest, the Government shall reimburse him for proper transportation expenses at such time as he acquires eligibility therefor."

Approved August 31, 1954.

Public Law 738

CHAPTER 1156

AN ACT

August 31, 1954
[H. R. 270]

To provide for the control and extinguishment of outcrop and underground fires in coal formations, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is hereby recognized that outcrop and underground fires in coal formations involve serious wastage of the fuel resources of the Nation, and constitute a menace to the health and safety of the public and to surface property. It is therefore declared to be the policy of the Congress to provide for the control and extinguishment of outcrop and underground coal fires and thereby to prevent injuries and loss of life, protect public health, conserve natural resources, and to preserve public and private surface property.

Fires in coal
mines, etc.
Control.

SEC. 2. As used in this Act:

Definitions.

"Coal" means any of the recognized classifications and ranks of coal, including anthracite, bituminous, semibituminous, subbituminous, and lignite.

"Outcrop" means any place where a formation is visible or substantially exposed at the surface.

"Formation" means any vein, seam, stratum, bed, or other naturally occurring deposit.

"Coal mine" means any underground, surface, or strip mine from which coal is obtained.

"State" means any State or Territory of the United States, or any political subdivision thereof.

"Person" means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, business trust, legal representative, or any organized group of persons.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to effectuate the policy declared in section 1 of this Act, is hereby authorized—

Surveys, etc.

(a) to conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the causes and extent of outcrop and underground fires in coal formations and the methods for control or extinguishment of such fires; to publish the results of any such surveys, investigations, and researches; and to disseminate information concerning such method; and

(b) to plan and execute projects for control or extinguishment of fires in coal formations.

Projects.

SEC. 4. The acts authorized in section 3 of this Act may be performed—