

"The compact administrators shall formulate procedures for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

"ARTICLE VI

"Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit curtailment or diminution of the forest fire fighting forces, equipment, services or facilities of any member state.

"Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or restrict the powers of any state ratifying the same to provide for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires, or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws, rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, control and extinguishment in such state.

"Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between the United States Forest Service and a member state or states.

"ARTICLE VII

"The compact administrators may request the United States Forest Service to act as the primary research and coordinating agency of the South Central Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in each state, and the United States Forest Service may accept the initial responsibility in preparing and presenting to the compact administrators its recommendations with respect to the regional fire plan. Representatives of the United States Forest Service may attend meetings of the compact administrators.

"ARTICLE VIII

"The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or preventing forest fires shall be operative as between any state party to this compact and any other state which is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region: *Provided*, That the legislature of such other state shall have given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this compact.

"ARTICLE IX

"This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each state ratifying it until the legislature or the Governor of such state takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be effective until six months after notice thereof has been sent by the chief executive of the state desiring to withdraw to the chief executives of all states then parties to the compact."

Approved August 24, 1954.

Public Law 643

CHAPTER 892

AN ACT

To ratify and confirm sections 5 and 6 of Act 254 and Act 280 of the Session Laws of Hawaii 1953 and to authorize the issuance of certain public improvement bonds by the Territory of Hawaii.

August 24, 1954
[H. R. 6886]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections 5 and 6 of Act 254 of the Session Laws of Hawaii 1953, entitled: "An Act

Hawaii.
Improvement
bonds.

providing for the issuance of public improvement bonds", and Act 280 of the Session Laws of Hawaii 1953, entitled "An Act relating to public improvement and the financing thereof, making appropriations for public improvements and providing for the issuance of public improvement bonds, and memorializing Congress to authorize the issuance of public improvement bonds of the Territory of Hawaii during the years 1953 to 1959, inclusive, without respect to the limitations imposed by the Hawaiian Organic Act" are hereby ratified and confirmed: *Provided, however*, That nothing herein contained shall be deemed to prohibit the amendment of said Act of said Territory by the legislature thereof, from time to time, to provide for changes in the improvements authorized by said Act, and for the disposition of unexpended moneys appropriated by said Act: *Provided further*, That no such amendment shall cause the proceeds of the bond issues hereby authorized to be expended for any purpose other than authorized public improvements or reduction of the debt, unless otherwise approved by the Congress.

31 Stat. 141.
48 USC 491.

SEC. 2. During the years 1954 to 1959, inclusive, the Territory of Hawaii is authorized to issue, any provision of the Hawaiian Organic Act or any other Act of Congress to the contrary notwithstanding, public improvement bonds in the amount of \$19,063,500 in excess of the existing debt limitation, which shall be in addition to all other issues in excess of said debt limitation authorized by the Congress: *Provided*, That the total indebtedness of such Territory shall not exceed \$95,000,000.

SEC. 3. All bonds issued pursuant to section 2 shall be serial bonds payable in substantially equal annual installments, with the first such installment maturing not later than five years from the date of issue and the last such installment maturing not later than thirty years from such date.

Approval of President.

SEC. 4. Bonds shall not be issued pursuant to section 2 without the approval of the President of the United States.

Approved August 24, 1954.

Public Law 644

CHAPTER 893

AN ACT

August 24, 1954
[H. R. 7131]

To repeal a limitation on pay of certain officers of the Navy.

Naval fleet admirals.
Pay.
50 USC app. 1691
note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That fleet admirals of the Navy, appointed under the Act of March 23, 1946 (60 Stat. 59), shall be considered to be retired naval officers for the purposes of the last proviso of the paragraph under the heading "Pay of the Navy" contained in the Act of June 10, 1896 (29 Stat. 361), as that proviso was amended by section 9 of the Act of July 22, 1935 (49 Stat. 490; 34 U. S. C. 883).

Approved August 24, 1954.

Public Law 645

CHAPTER 894

AN ACT

August 24, 1954
[H. R. 7398]

To repeal the requirement of section 3921 of the Revised Statutes that postmasters report to the Postmaster General failure to cancel postage stamps.

Postage stamps.
Cancellation.

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