

19 July 1928

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION NEWS BULLETIN NO. 88

The Bureau requests that this Bulletin be given free circulation among officers and that items of interest be published to the Enlisted Personnel. This Bulletin is not confidential and may be destroyed at the discretion of the commanding officers. Constructive suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

LEGISLATION AFFECTING PERSONNEL OF NAVY - FIRST SESSION,  
70TH CONGRESS.

1. For the information of officers and men of the service the following tabulation of Acts passed by the last session of Congress and bills reported out from Committees and pending before the Congress, which apply generally to the personnel of the Naval service, is supplied.
2. Instructions as to carrying out the provisions of the several Acts have been or will be issued by the offices concerned and this tabulation is to be considered as informative only.

ACTS PASSED.

Allowance in Appropriation Act of funds for average of 84,000 enlisted men during fiscal year 1929.

Increase of midshipmen at Naval Academy to four for each Representative and Senator, and allowance of four to Vice President.

Increase of pay for officers and men on Submarine duty and for divers.

Double pensions allowed to dependents of officers or men whose death results from an accident to a submarine vessel.

Modification of six months' death gratuity law to permit its payment to dependents on proof of dependency, without the previous necessity of prior designation of such dependents by the deceased officer or man (hitherto necessary except for wife or children).

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ACTS PASSED (Continued)

Authorizing the travel at government expense of an escort for the bodies of deceased officers, enlisted men, and nurses.

Permitting officers designated for engineering duty only to serve at sea in the grades of commander and above at their own request as fleet and squadron engineers, or as engineer officers of vessels.

Authorizing duty on lighter-than-air ships to be counted as sea duty. Duty on Los Angeles has been so designated by Secretary of Navy from May 11, 1928.

Allowing advance of funds, for expenses legally reimbursable, to officers and men sent on emergency duty on shore.

Allowing enlisted men at their own request to make good before expiration of enlistment any time lost through own misconduct. Previous law allowed only time lost through sickness due to own misconduct.

Merchant Marine Act, providing, in addition to provisions relating to Merchant Marine proper, that naval officers on the active list may at their request be assigned to service on any vessel employed in mail service, and while so employed receive half pay, in addition to such other compensation from the owner or master as may be agreed upon.

Allowing three cents per mile in lieu of transportation in kind for travel under orders in privately owned conveyances. Does not modify mileage but applies to officers and men traveling under orders where mileage would not be allowed but transportation furnished.

Allowing retired officers credit on retired pay for all active duty performed since retirement and granting them when on active duty the same pay and allowances while on leave of absence or sick leave, as officers on the active list, and the six months' death gratuity in case of death when on active duty status.

Allowing officers and men now in service who served in World War to take out Government life insurance at any time upon proof of good health. (Previous law required this insurance to be taken out within 120 days after entry into service).

PENDING BILLS

Line Personnel distribution and promotion bill (Britten Bill)  
Reported to House.

Warrant Officers' Pay Bill. Passed Senate.

Allowing adopted children to be classed as dependents under the  
Pay Act. Passed House.

Allowing chief warrant and warrant electricians and radio electri-  
cians to qualify for commission as ensign. Reported to House.

Allowing hospitalization in government hospitals other than naval  
hospitals to officers and men of the naval service. Reported to  
House.

Allowing benefits of honorable discharge to men discharged for  
under age enlistments made during period of hostilities from April  
6, 1917 to November 11, 1918. Passed House.

Authorizing retired officers of the Navy to accept diplomatic and  
consular appointments. Passed Senate.

Allowing acting chaplains to be appointed up to age of thirty-five  
years. Reported to House.

Removing statutory doubt as to validity of retirement of officers  
of grades below commander at age of sixty-four, and permitting re-  
tirement at sixty-four of certain dental officers who entered at  
over forty years' of age and whose retirement heretofore has been  
held impracticable before the age of seventy years. Passed House.

Validating retirements in provisional ranks of Reserve Officers and  
certain disputed (by Comptroller General) transfers of men to Fleet  
Naval Reserve.

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ORDERS FOR OFFICERS - COPY WITH ALL ENDORSEMENTS SHOWING TRAVEL ACTUALLY PERFORMED REQUESTED FOR APPROVAL OF ORDERS.

Recently the Bureau has received numerous orders issued outside of the Department and forwarded to the Bureau of Navigation for approval in order to enable the officers concerned to collect reimbursement for the travel involved. Many of these orders have not been accompanied by a carbon copy for the files of the Bureau nor had the Bureau received a copy of the orders previously. It therefore was necessary for the Bureau to make a copy for its files in each such case.

To enable the Bureau to have a more complete file and to expedite the approval of orders when forwarded to the Bureau, a copy of the orders with all indorsements showing the travel actually performed should accompany the request for approval of orders.

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Dept. Distribution I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X (a), (b) and (c).