

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

All supervisory and appellate powers and duties in regard to Indian affairs theretofore vested in Secretary of the Treasury were thereafter to be exercised and performed by Secretary of the Interior under provisions of section 1 of act July 27, 1868, ch. 259, 15 Stat. 228.

Appointment by President of a Commissioner of Indian Affairs to act under direction of Secretary of War was provided for by section 1 of act July 9, 1832, ch. 174, 4 Stat. 564.

§ 2a. Assistant or deputy commissioners; appointment; powers and duties

Assistant or deputy commissioners of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in the Department of the Interior, shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, subject to the civil-service laws and chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5. Appointments to these positions shall be considered as made under the authority of section 3101 of title 5. Assistant and deputy commissioners so appointed shall be authorized to sign such letters, papers, and documents and to perform such other duties as may be directed by the commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Secretary may designate for the Bureau of Indian Affairs an assistant or deputy commissioner, who shall be authorized to perform the duties of the commissioner in case of the death, resignation, absence, or sickness of the commissioner.

(June 5, 1942, ch. 336, §1, 56 Stat. 312; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403(d), eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100; Oct. 28, 1949, ch. 782, title XI, §1106(a), 63 Stat. 972.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The civil-service laws, referred to in text, are set out in Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. See, particularly, section 3301 et seq. of Title 5.

CODIFICATION

“Chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5” and “section 3101 of title 5” substituted in text for “the Classification Act of 1949, as amended” and “section 169 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (5 U.S.C., sec. 43)”, respectively, on authority of Pub. L. 89-554, §7(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 631, the first section of which enacted Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Section embodies only those provisions of section 1 of act June 5, 1942, which relate to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Provisions of section 1 of such act relating to the General Land Office were classified to section 3a of Title 43, Public Lands, and were omitted from the Code pursuant to Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946.

AMENDMENTS

1949—Act Oct. 28, 1949, substituted “Classification Act of 1949” for “Classification Act of 1923”.

REPEALS

Act Oct. 28, 1949, ch. 782, cited as a credit to this section, was repealed (subject to a savings clause) by Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, §8, 80 Stat. 632, 655.

REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT LAWS

Section 2 of act June 5, 1942, provided as follows: “All provisions of law inconsistent with this Act [this sec-

tion] are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.”

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

An assistant commissioner was authorized by a provision of act July 16, 1914, ch. 141, §1, 38 Stat. 490.

§ 3. Compilation of statutes regulating duties of Indian agents and inspectors

It shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to cause to be compiled and printed for the use of Indian agents and inspectors the provisions of the statutes regulating the performance of their respective duties, and also to furnish said officers from time to time information of new enactments upon the same subject.

(May 17, 1882, ch. 163, §7, 22 Stat. 88.)

CODIFICATION

Section is from the Indian Appropriation Act, 1883.

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INDIAN AGENTS

There have been no Indian agents since 1908. See note under section 64 of this title.

§ 4. Defective record of deeds and papers legalized

The recording of all deeds and papers prior to July 26, 1892, in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is confirmed, approved, and legalized; and said record theretofore made shall be deemed, taken, and held to be good and valid and shall have all the force and effect and be entitled to the same credit as if it had been made in pursuance of and in conformity to law. But shall have no effect whatever upon the validity or invalidity of the deed or paper so recorded, and shall be no evidence of constructive notice to any persons not actually knowing the contents.

(July 26, 1892, ch. 256, §1, 27 Stat. 272.)

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§ 5. Record of deeds by Indians requiring approval

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs is hereby empowered and directed to continue to make

and keep a record of every deed executed by any Indian, his heirs, representatives, or assigns, which may require the approval of the President of the United States or of the Secretary of the Interior, whenever such approval shall have been given, and the deed so approved returned to said office.

(July 26, 1892, ch. 256, § 2, 27 Stat. 273.)

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§ 6. Seal; authenticated and certified documents; evidence

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs shall cause a seal to be made and provided for the said office, with such device as the President of the United States shall approve, and copies of any public documents, records, books, maps, or papers belonging to or on the files of said office, authenticated by the seal and certified by the Commissioner thereof, or by such officer as may, for the time being, be acting as or for such Commissioner, shall be evidence equally with the originals thereof.

(July 26, 1892, ch. 256, § 3, 27 Stat. 273.)

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§ 7. Fees for furnishing certified copies of records

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs shall have the custody of said seal, and shall furnish certified copies of any such records, books, maps, or papers belonging to or on the files of said office, to any person applying therefor who shall comply with the requirements of said office, upon the payment by such parties at the rate of 10 cents per hundred words, and \$1 for copies of maps or plats, and the additional sum of 25 cents for the Commissioner's certificate of verification, with the seal of said office; and one of the employees of said office shall be designated by the Commissioner as the receiving clerk, and the amounts so received shall, under the direction of the Commissioner, be paid into the Treasury of the United States; but fees shall not be demanded for such authenticated copies as may be required by the officers of any branch of the Government or by any Indian who shall satisfy the Commissioner by satisfactory legal evidence that he or she is not able, by reason of poverty, to pay such fees, nor for such unverified copies as the Commissioner in his discretion may deem proper to furnish.

(July 26, 1892, ch. 256, § 4, 27 Stat. 273; Pub. L. 92-310, title II, § 229(b), June 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 208.)

AMENDMENTS

1972—Pub. L. 92-310 struck out provisions which required the receiving clerk to give a bond in the sum of \$1,000.

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§ 8. Accounts for claims and disbursements

All accounts and vouchers for claims and disbursements connected with Indian affairs shall be transmitted to the Commissioner for administrative examination, and by him passed to the General Accounting Office for settlement.

(R.S. § 464; June 10, 1921, ch. 18, title III, § 304, 42 Stat. 24.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 464 derived from act July 9, 1832, ch. 174, § 3, 4 Stat. 564.

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“General Accounting Office” substituted in text for “proper accounting officer of the Department of the Treasury” pursuant to act June 10, 1921, which transferred all powers and duties of the Comptroller, six auditors, and certain other employees of the Treasury to the General Accounting Office. See section 701 et seq. of Title 31, Money and Finance.

§ 9. Regulations by President

The President may prescribe such regulations as he may think fit for carrying into effect the various provisions of any act relating to Indian affairs, and for the settlement of the accounts of Indian affairs.

(R.S. § 465.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 465 derived from act June 30, 1834, ch. 162, § 17, 4 Stat. 738.

§ 10. Employee to sign letters

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, may designate an employee of the Indian Office to sign letters of that office requiring the signature of the commissioner or assistant commissioner, and all signatures of such employee while acting under such designation shall have the same force and effect as if made by said commissioner or assistant commissioner.

(Mar. 3, 1909, ch. 263, 35 Stat. 783.)

CODIFICATION

Section is from the Indian Department Appropriation Act, 1910.

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