

of the United States except as hereinafter provided. The prohibition of this section shall not apply to cases in which the right to hold or dispose of lands in the United States is secured by existing treaties to citizens or subjects of foreign countries, which rights, so far as they may exist by force of any such treaty, shall continue to exist so long as such treaties are in force, and no longer.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, §1, 24 Stat. 476; Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 618.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 71 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

**§ 1502. Previously acquired lands; bona fide resident aliens; mining or incorporated village lands**

This chapter shall not apply to land owned in any of the Territories of the United States by aliens, which was acquired on or before March 3, 1887, so long as it is held by the then owners, their heirs or legal representatives, nor to any alien who shall become a bona fide resident of the United States, and any alien who shall become a bona fide resident of the United States, or shall have declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States in the manner provided by law, shall have the right to acquire and hold lands in either of the Territories of the United States upon the same terms as citizens of the United States. If any such resident alien shall cease to be a bona fide resident of the United States then such alien shall have ten years from the time he ceases to be such bona fide resident in which to alienate such lands. This chapter shall not be construed to prevent any persons not citizens of the United States from acquiring or holding lots or parcels of lands in any incorporated or platted city, town, or village, or in any mine or mining claim, in any of the Territories of the United States.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, §2, 24 Stat. 477; Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 618.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 72 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

**§ 1503. Acquisition by inheritance, in collection of debts, etc.**

This chapter shall not prevent aliens from acquiring lands or any interests therein by inheritance or in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts, nor from acquiring liens on real estate or any interest therein, nor from lending money and securing the same upon real estate or any interest therein; nor from enforcing any such lien, nor from acquiring and holding title to such real estate, or any interest therein, upon which a lien may have heretofore or may hereafter be fixed, or upon which a loan of money may have been heretofore or hereafter may be made and secured. All lands so acquired shall be sold within ten years after title shall be perfected in him under said sale or the same shall escheat to the United States and be forfeited as provided in sections 1504 to 1507 of this title.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, §3, 24 Stat. 477; Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 618.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 73 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

**§ 1504. Conveyance of lands in Territories by aliens before escheat proceedings**

Any alien who shall hold lands in any of the Territories of the United States in contravention of the provisions of this chapter may nevertheless convey his title thereto at any time before the institution of escheat proceedings as hereinafter provided. If any such conveyance shall be made by such alien, either to an alien or to a citizen of the United States, in trust and for the purpose and with the intention of evading the provisions of this chapter, such conveyance shall be null and void, and any such lands so conveyed shall be forfeited and escheat to the United States.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, §4, 24 Stat. 477; Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 618.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 74 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1503 of this title.

**§ 1505. Proceedings for escheat of improperly held lands**

It shall be the duty of the Attorney General of the United States, when he shall be informed or have reason to believe that lands in any of the Territories of the United States are being held contrary to the provisions of this chapter, to institute or cause to be instituted suit in behalf of the United States in the district court of the Territory in the district where such land or a part thereof may be situated, praying for the escheat of the same on behalf of the United States to the United States. Before any such suit is instituted the Attorney General shall give or cause to be given ninety days' notice by registered letter of his intention to sue, or by personal notice directed to or delivered to the owner of said land, or the person who last rendered the same for taxation, or his agent, and to all other persons having an interest in such lands of which he may have actual or constructive notice. In the event personal notice cannot be obtained in some one of the modes above provided, then said notice shall be given by publication in some newspaper published in the county where the land is situate, and if no newspaper is published in said county then the said notice shall be published in some newspaper nearest said county.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, §5, as added Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 619.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 75 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1503 of this title.