

Vessel's documents to show.

Present home port recognized.

R. S., sec. 4141, p. 796, amended.

No bill of sale, assignment, etc., valid until recorded by collector of customs at home port.

Bills of sale, etc., to be recorded at home port of new document.

Prior conveyances, etc., declared valid if documented at proper port.

Retroactive effect.

*Proviso.*  
No vested right impaired.

Port of documentation deemed home port.  
Vol. 41, p. 1000.

Navigation laws and Ship Mortgage Act amended to conform herewith.  
Vol. 41, p. 1000.

Porto Rico, which port the owner of such vessel, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Navigation of the Department of Commerce, shall specifically fix and determine, and subject to such approval may from time to time change. Such home port shall be shown in the register, enrollment and license, or license of such vessel, which documents, respectively, are hereinafter referred to as the vessel's document. The home port shown in the document of any vessel of the United States in force at the time of the approval of this Act shall be deemed to have been fixed and determined in accordance with the provisions hereof. Section 4141 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended to conform herewith.

SEC. 2. No bill of sale, conveyance, mortgage, assignment of mortgage, or hypothecation (except bottomry), which includes a vessel of the United States or any portion thereof shall be valid in respect to such vessel against any person other than the grantor or mortgagor, his heirs or devisees, and any person having actual notice thereof, until such bill of sale, conveyance, mortgage, assignment of mortgage, or hypothecation is recorded in the office of the collector of customs at the home port of such vessel. Any bill of sale or conveyance of the whole or any part of a vessel shall be recorded at the home port of such vessel as shown in her new document.

SEC. 3. All conveyances and mortgages of any vessel or any part thereof, and all documentations, recordations, indorsements, and indexing thereof, and proceedings incidental thereto heretofore made or done, are hereby declared valid to the extent they would have been valid if the port or ports at which said vessel has in fact been documented from time to time had been the port or ports at which it should have been documented in accordance with law; and this section is hereby declared retroactive so as to accomplish such validation: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to deprive any person of any vested right.

SEC. 4. Wherever in the Ship Mortgage Act, 1920, otherwise known as section 30 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, the words "port of documentation" are used they shall be deemed to mean the "home port" of the vessel, except that the words "port of documentation" shall not include a port in which a temporary document is issued.

SEC. 5. All such provisions of the Navigation Laws of the United States and of the Ship Mortgage Act, 1920, otherwise known as section 30 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, as are in conflict with this Act are hereby amended to conform herewith.

Approved, February 16, 1925.

February 17, 1925.  
[H. R. 5197.]  
[Public, No. 421.]

United States courts.  
*Ante*, p. 90, amended.

Arkansas judicial districts.

Western district.  
Texarkana division.

El Dorado division.

Fort Smith division.

Harrison division.

CHAP. 252.—An Act To amend section 71 of the Judicial Code, as amended.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 71 of the Judicial Code, as amended, be amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 71. (a) The State of Arkansas is divided into two districts, to be known as the western and eastern districts of Arkansas.

"(b) The western district shall include four divisions constituted as follows: The Texarkana division, which shall include the territory embraced on July 1, 1920, in the counties of Sevier, Howard, Little River, Pike, Hempstead, Miller, Lafayette, and Nevada; the El Dorado division, which shall include the territory embraced on such date in the counties of Columbia, Ouachita, Union, and Calhoun; the Fort Smith division, which shall include the territory embraced on such date in the counties of Polk, Scott, Logan, Sebastian, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Benton, and Johnson; and the Harrison division, which shall include the territory embraced on such date in



the counties of Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, and Searcy.

"(c) Terms of the district court for the Texarkana division shall be held at Texarkana on the second Mondays in May and November; for the El Dorado division, at El Dorado on the fourth Mondays in January and June; for the Fort Smith division, at Fort Smith on the second Mondays in January and June; and for the Harrison division, at Harrison on the second Mondays in April and October.

"(d) The clerk of the court for the western district shall maintain an office in charge of himself or a deputy at Texarkana, Fort Smith, El Dorado, and Harrison. Such offices shall be kept open at all times for the transaction of the business of the court.

"(e) This Act does not repeal or amend the remainder of section 71 of the Judicial Code as it applies to the eastern district of Arkansas."

Approved, February 17, 1925.

Terms.

Offices of clerk.

Eastern district not changed.

**CHAP. 253.**—An Act Authorizing the construction of a bridge across Rock River at the city of Beloit, county of Rock, State of Wisconsin.

February 17, 1925.

[H. R. 11280.]

[Public, No. 422.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the consent of Congress is hereby granted to the city of Beloit, county of Rock, in the State of Wisconsin, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across Rock River, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, at or near Portland Avenue in said city of Beloit, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906.

Rock River.  
Beloit, Wis., may  
bridge.

Construction.  
Vol. 34, p. 84.

**SEC. 2.** The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment.

Approved, February 17, 1925.

**CHAP. 254.**—An Act To provide for an additional district judge for the western district of Michigan.

February 17, 1925.

[S. 4056.]

[Public, No. 423.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint an additional judge of the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Michigan, whose compensation, duties, and powers shall be the same as now provided by law for other district judges, and said judge shall be held and treated as if senior in commission to the present judge of said court, and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as by law may be incident to seniority.

United States courts.  
Michigan western  
district.  
Additional judge  
authorized for.  
Vol. 36, p. 1087.  
Duties, etc.

**SEC. 2.** The present district judge for the western district of Michigan shall be held and treated as if junior in commission, and upon the death, resignation, or retirement of the present district judge for the western district of Michigan the vacancy caused by such death, resignation, or retirement of the said present judge shall not be filled.

Present judge made  
junior, and on death,  
etc., vacancy not to be  
filled.

Approved, February 17, 1925.