

- Sec.
494. Obstruction of navigation; alterations and removals; lights and signals; draws.
494a. Study of bridges over navigable waters.
495. Violations of orders respecting bridges and accessory works.
496. Time for commencement and completion of bridge.
497. "Persons" defined.
498. Reservation of right to alter or repeal.
498a, 498b. Repealed.
499. Regulations for drawbridges.
500. Deflection of current; liability to riparian owners.
501. Omitted.
502. Alteration, removal, or repair of bridge or accessory obstructions to navigation.
503 to 507. Repealed.
508. Amount of tolls.

SUBCHAPTER II—ALTERATION OF BRIDGES

511. Definitions.
512. Obstruction of navigation.
513. Notice, hearings, and findings.
514. Submission and approval of general plans and specifications.
515. Contracts for project; guaranty of cost.
516. Apportionment of cost.
517. Payment of share of United States.
518. Authorization of appropriations.
519. Noncompliance with orders; penalties; removal of bridge.
520. Review of findings and orders.
521. Regulations and orders.
522. Existing provisions of law.
523. Relocation of bridges.
524. Applicability of administrative procedure provisions.

SUBCHAPTER III—GENERAL BRIDGE AUTHORITY

525. Construction and operation of bridges.
526, 526a. Repealed.
527. Acquisition of interstate bridges by public agencies; amount of damages.
528. Statement of construction costs of privately owned interstate bridges; investigation of costs; conclusiveness of findings; review.
529. Repealed.
530. Bridges included and excluded.
531. International bridges.
532. Eminent domain.
533. Penalties for violations.
534. Conveyance of right, title, and interest of United States in bridges transferred to States or political subdivisions; terms and conditions.

SUBCHAPTER IV—INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES

535. Congressional consent to construction, maintenance, and operation of international bridges; conditions of consent.
535a. Congressional consent to State agreements with Canada and Mexico; Secretary of State's approval of agreements.
535b. Presidential approval; recommendations of Federal officials.
535c. Secretary of Transportation's approval; commencement and completion requirements; extension of time limits.
535d. Repealed.
535e. Ownership.
535f. Applicability of provisions.
535g. Federal navigable waters and commerce jurisdiction unaffected.
535h. Report of Secretary of Transportation's approval during fiscal year.
535i. Reservation of right to alter or repeal.

BRIDGE PERMITS

Pub. L. 112-213, title VII, §712(a), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1582, provided that:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of reviewing a permit application pursuant to section 9 of the Act of March 3, 1899, popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401), the Act of March 23, 1906, popularly known as the Bridge Act of 1906 (33 U.S.C. 491 et seq.), the Act of June 21, 1940, popularly known as the Truman-Hobbs Act (33 U.S.C. 511 et seq.), or the General Bridge Act of 1946 (33 U.S.C. 525 et seq.), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

"(1) accept voluntary services from one or more owners of a bridge; and

"(2) accept and credit to Coast Guard operating expenses any amounts received from one or more owners of a bridge."

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 491. Approval of and deviation from plans; exemptions

When, after March 23, 1906, authority is granted by Congress to any persons to construct and maintain a bridge across or over any of the navigable waters of the United States, such bridge shall not be built or commenced until the plans and specifications for its construction, together with such drawings of the proposed construction and such map of the proposed location as may be required for a full understanding of the subject, have been submitted to the Secretary of Transportation for the Secretary's approval, nor until the Secretary shall have approved such plans and specifications and the location of such bridge and accessory works; and when the plans for any bridge to be constructed under the provisions of sections 491 to 494 and 495 to 498 of this title, have been approved by the Secretary it shall not be lawful to deviate from such plans, either before or after completion of the structure, unless the modification of such plans has previously been submitted to and received the approval of the Secretary. This section shall not apply to any bridge over waters which are not subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and which are not used and are not susceptible to use in their natural condition or by reasonable improvement as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

(Mar. 23, 1906, ch. 1130, §1, 34 Stat. 84; Pub. L. 97-322, title I, §107(c), Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1582; Pub. L. 97-449, §2(d)(1), Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2440; Pub. L. 98-557, §17(g)(1), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2869.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-557 substituted "for the Secretary's approval, nor until the Secretary" for "and Chief of Engineers for their approval, nor until they" and struck out "by the Chief of Engineers and" after "have been approved", "of the Chief of Engineers and" after "received the approval", and "of Transportation" after "by the Secretary" and after "of the Secretary".

1983—Pub. L. 97-449 substituted "Secretary of Transportation" for "Secretary of War" wherever appearing. See Transfer of Functions note below.

1982—Pub. L. 97-322 inserted sentence at end relating to exemption.

SHORT TITLE

Sections 491 to 494 and 495 to 498 of this title are popularly known as the "Bridge Act of 1906" and the "General Bridge Act of 1906".

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions, powers, and duties of Secretary of the Army [formerly War] and other offices and officers of