

Relations Act and also popularly known as the Jones Act, which is classified principally to the chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 731 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of last part of section 3 of act Mar. 2, 1917, as added by act Mar. 4, 1927. The first two parts are classified to sections 741 and 745 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

1937—Act Aug. 26, 1937, reenacted section without substantive change.

#### § 742. Acknowledgment of deeds

Deeds and other instruments affecting land situate in the District of Columbia, or any other territory or possession of the United States, may be acknowledged in Puerto Rico before any notary public appointed therein by proper authority, or any officer therein who has ex officio the powers of a notary public. The certificate by such notary shall be accompanied by the certificate of the executive secretary of Puerto Rico to the effect that the notary taking such acknowledgment is in fact such notarial officer.

(Mar. 2, 1917, ch. 145, § 54, 39 Stat. 968; May 17, 1932, ch. 190, 47 Stat. 158.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in act Mar. 22, 1902, ch. 273, 32 Stat. 88, except that that act required the certificate of the attorney general of Puerto Rico, rather than of the executive secretary of Puerto Rico as required by this section.

#### CHANGE OF NAME

“Puerto Rico” substituted in text for “Porto Rico” pursuant to act May 17, 1932, which is classified to section 731a of this title.

#### § 743. Repealed. July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XI, § 1113, 58 Stat. 714

Section, acts Apr. 12, 1900, ch. 191, § 10, 31 Stat. 80; Aug. 14, 1912, ch. 288, 37 Stat. 309; May 17, 1932, ch. 190, 47 Stat. 158, provided for quarantine stations in Puerto Rico. See section 267 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

#### RENUMBERING OF REPEALING ACT

Section 611 of act July 1, 1944, which repealed this section, was renumbered § 711 by act Aug. 13, 1946, ch. 958, § 5, 60 Stat. 1049, § 713 by act Feb. 28, 1948, ch. 83, § 9(b), 62 Stat. 47, § 813 by act July 30, 1956, ch. 779, § 3(b), 70 Stat. 720, § 913 by Pub. L. 88-581, § 4(b), Sept. 4, 1964, 78 Stat. 919, § 1013 by Pub. L. 89-239, § 3(b), Oct. 6, 1965, 79 Stat. 931, and § 1113 by Pub. L. 91-572, § 6(b), Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1506.

#### § 744. Coasting trade laws

The coasting trade between Puerto Rico and the United States shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of law applicable to such trade between any two great coasting districts of the United States.

(Apr. 12, 1900, ch. 191, § 9, 31 Stat. 79; May 17, 1932, ch. 190, 47 Stat. 158.)

#### CODIFICATION

Additional provisions of section 9 of act Apr. 12, 1900, authorizing the making of regulations for the nationalization of all vessels owned by inhabitants of Puerto

Rico on April 11, 1889, and which continued to be so owned up to the date of that nationalization and for the admission of the same to all the benefits of the coasting trade of the United States, have been omitted.

Section was not enacted as part of the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act which comprises this chapter.

#### CHANGE OF NAME

“Puerto Rico” substituted in text for “Porto Rico” pursuant to act May 17, 1932, which is classified to section 731a of this title.

#### § 745. Tax exempt bonds

All bonds issued by the Government of Puerto Rico, or by its authority, shall be exempt from taxation by the Government of the United States, or by the Government of Puerto Rico or of any political or municipal subdivision thereof, or by any State, Territory, or possession, or by any county, municipality, or other municipal subdivision of any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or by the District of Columbia.

(Mar. 2, 1917, ch. 145, § 3, 39 Stat. 953; Feb. 3, 1921, ch. 34, § 2, 41 Stat. 1096; Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 503, § 1, 44 Stat. 1418; Aug. 26, 1937, ch. 831, 50 Stat. 844; Aug. 17, 1950, ch. 731, 64 Stat. 458; Pub. L. 87-121, § 1, Aug. 3, 1961, 75 Stat. 245.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of second part of section 3 of act Mar. 2, 1917, commencing with proviso clause. The first and last parts of section 3 are classified to sections 741 and 741a, respectively, of this title.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in act Apr. 12, 1900, ch. 191, § 38, 31 Stat. 86.

#### AMENDMENTS

1961—Pub. L. 87-121 struck out “no public indebtedness of Puerto Rico and the municipalities of San Juan, Ponce, Arecibo, Rio Piedras, and Mayaguez shall be allowed in excess of 10 per centum of the aggregate tax valuation of its property, and no public indebtedness of any other subdivision or municipality of Puerto Rico shall hereafter be allowed in excess of 5 per centum of the aggregate tax valuation of the property in any such subdivision or municipality,” before “All bonds issued” and also struck out “In computing the indebtedness of the people of Puerto Rico, municipal bonds for the payment of interest and principal of which the good faith of the people of Puerto Rico has heretofore been pledged and bonds issued by the people of Puerto Rico secured by bonds to an equivalent amount of bonds of municipal corporations or school boards of Puerto Rico shall not be counted but all bonds hereafter issued by any municipality or subdivision within the 5 per centum hereby authorized for which the good faith of the people of Puerto Rico is pledged shall be counted” after “District of Columbia”.

1950—Act Aug. 17, 1950, made section applicable to municipalities of Arecibo and Rio Piedras.

1937—Act Aug. 26, 1937, made section applicable to municipality of Mayaguez and substituted “August 26, 1937” for “March 4, 1927” wherever appearing.

1927—Act Mar. 4, 1927, made section applicable to municipalities of San Juan and Ponce, limited public indebtedness of other subdivisions or municipalities of Puerto Rico to 5 per centum, and inserted in last sentence two clauses, the first relating to the non-inclusion of municipal bonds for the payment of interest and principal, and the second reading “but all bonds after August 26, 1937, issued by any municipality or subdivision within the 5 per centum authorized for which the good faith of the people of Porto Rico is pledged shall be counted.”

1921—Act Feb. 3, 1921, increased allowable public indebtedness from 7 to 10 per centum of aggregate tax valuation of property.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1961 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 87-121, §2, Aug. 3, 1961, 75 Stat. 245, provided that: "Section 1 of this Act [amending this section] shall take effect upon a majority of the qualified electors of Puerto Rico having voted in a referendum pursuant to section 1 of article VII of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, to include provisions in the Commonwealth constitution, in lieu of the provisions of section 3 of the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act [this section] specified herein, limiting the debt-incurring capacity of the Commonwealth and of its municipalities (as proposed in the concurrent resolution of the legislative assembly of the Commonwealth)."

[Referendum held Dec. 10, 1961, and debt limitation amendment to Article VI, §2, of Constitution of Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ratified by a majority of voters.]

**§ 745a. Public improvement bonds sold to United States or agency thereof excluded from public indebtedness**

Bonds or other obligations of Puerto Rico or any municipal government therein, payable solely from revenues derived from any public improvement or undertaking (which revenues may include transfers by agreement or otherwise from the regular funds of the issuer in respect of the use by it of the facilities afforded by such improvement or undertaking), and issued and sold to the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, shall not be considered public indebtedness of the issuer within the meaning of section 745 of this title.

(Aug. 13, 1935, ch. 516, 49 Stat. 611.)

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act which comprises this chapter.

**§ 745b. Refunding bonds excluded temporarily in computing indebtedness**

Any bonds or other obligations of Puerto Rico issued after August 3, 1935, for the purpose of retiring previously outstanding bonds or obligations shall not be included in computing the public indebtedness of Puerto Rico under section 745 of this title, until six months after their issue.

(Aug. 3, 1935, ch. 435, 49 Stat. 516.)

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act which comprises this chapter.

**§ 746. Public lands and buildings; reservations; rights prior to July 1, 1902**

All public lands and buildings, not including harbor areas and navigable streams and bodies of water and the submerged lands underlying the same, owned by the United States in the island of Puerto Rico and not reserved by the President of the United States prior to July 1, 1903, pursuant to authority vested in him by law, are granted to the government of Puerto Rico, to be held or disposed of for the use and benefit of the people of said island. Said grant is upon the express condition that the government

of Puerto Rico, by proper authority, release to the United States any interest or claim it may have in or upon the lands or buildings reserved by the President as mentioned herein. Nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to affect any legal or equitable rights acquired by the government of Puerto Rico or by any other party, under any contract, lease, or license made by the United States authorities prior to the 1st day of May 1900.

(July 1, 1902, ch. 1383, §1, 32 Stat. 731; May 17, 1932, ch. 190, 47 Stat. 158.)

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act which comprises this chapter.

CHANGE OF NAME

"Puerto Rico" substituted in text for "Porto Rico" pursuant to act May 17, 1932, which is classified to section 731a of this title.

LAW LIBRARY

Act July 1, 1902, ch. 1383, §2, 32 Stat. 732, made an appropriation for the purchase of a law library for the use of the United States District Court for Puerto Rico.

EXPENSES AND TERM OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER

Act July 1, 1902, ch. 1383, §3, 32 Stat. 732, related to allowance of traveling expenses in addition to salary to the resident commissioner from Puerto Rico, and to the commencement of his term.

**§ 747. Public property transferred; "control" defined**

All property which may have been acquired in Puerto Rico by the United States under the cession of Spain in the treaty of peace entered into on the 10th day of December 1898, in any public bridges, road houses, water powers, highways, unnavigable streams and the beds thereof, subterranean waters, mines or minerals under the surface of private lands, all property which at the time of the cession belonged, under the laws of Spain then in force, to the various harbor works boards of Puerto Rico, all the harbor shores, docks, slips, reclaimed lands, and all public lands and buildings not reserved by the United States for public purposes prior to March 2, 1917, is placed under the control of the government of Puerto Rico, to be administered for the benefit of the people of Puerto Rico; and the Legislature of Puerto Rico shall have authority, subject to the limitations imposed upon all its acts, to legislate with respect to all matters, as it may deem advisable. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as used in this section "control" includes all right, title, and interest in and to and jurisdiction and authority over the aforesaid property and includes proprietary rights of ownership, and the rights of management, administration, leasing, use, and development of such property.

(Mar. 2, 1917, ch. 145, §7, 39 Stat. 954; May 17, 1932, ch. 190, 47 Stat. 158; Pub. L. 96-205, title VI, §606(b), Mar. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 91.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of that part of section 7 of act Mar. 2, 1917, preceding the proviso clause. The remainder of section 7 is classified to section 748 of this title.