

June 4, 1954, ch. 263, 68 Stat. 175. See section 869 et seq. of this title.

§§ 730 to 736. Repealed. Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 703(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2789

Section 730, act July 9, 1914, ch. 138, 38 Stat. 454, provided for issuance of patents to transferees of town lots purchased at public sale and transferred prior to October 11, 1911, where patent had not been issued to original purchaser who had since died.

Section 731, act Feb. 9, 1903, ch. 531, 32 Stat. 820, extended town-site laws to ceded Indian lands in the State of Minnesota.

Section 732, act Mar. 3, 1891, ch. 561, §11, 26 Stat. 1099, related to town-site entries in Alaska. Section was formerly classified to section 355 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

Section 733, act May 25, 1926, ch. 379, §1, 44 Stat. 629, related to Indian or Eskimo lands in Alaska set aside on survey of town site. Section was formerly classified to section 355a of Title 48.

Section 734, act May 25, 1926, ch. 379, §2, 44 Stat. 630, related to extension of streets or alleys across Indian or Eskimo land in Alaska. Section was formerly classified to section 355b of Title 48.

Section 735, act May 25, 1926, ch. 379, §3, 44 Stat. 630, related to a survey of nonmineral public lands in Alaska into lots and blocks. Section was formerly classified to section 355c of Title 48.

Section 736, act May 25, 1926, ch. 379, §4, 44 Stat. 630, related to authority of Secretary to prescribe regulations for sections 733 to 735 of this title. Section was formerly classified to section 355d of Title 48.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, §703(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2789, provided that the repeal made by section 703(a) is effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Repeal by Pub. L. 94-579 not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see section 701 of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of this title.

JUNEAU INDIAN VILLAGE TOWNSITE

Pub. L. 88-34, May 29, 1963, 77 Stat. 52, which provided that sections 733 to 736 of this title were extended and made applicable to all lands of the Juneau Indian Village of Alaska, including uplands and filled in tidelands occupied on May 29, 1963, was repealed by section 703(a) of Pub. L. 94-579.

§ 737. Unrestricted deeds for townsite lands held by Alaska natives

The trustee or trustees to whom a patent has been issued for a townsite surveyed pursuant to section 732 or 735¹ of this title, upon a finding by the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative that any Alaska native who claims and occupies a tract of land within such townsite is competent to manage his own affairs and has petitioned the Secretary or his authorized representative for an unrestricted deed, or² shall issue to such native an unrestricted deed, and thereafter all restrictions as to sale, encumbrance, or taxation of said lands shall be removed, but said land shall not be liable to the satisfaction of any debt, except obligations owed the Federal Government, contracted prior to the issuing of such deed.

(Feb. 26, 1948, ch. 72, 62 Stat. 35.)

¹ See References in Text note below.

² So in original.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 732 and 735 of this title, referred to in text, were repealed by Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, §703(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2789.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 355e of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 738. Repealed. Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 703(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2789

Section, act July 24, 1947, ch. 305, 61 Stat. 414, related to promulgation of zoning laws in Alaska. Section was formerly classified to section 364 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, §703(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2789, provided that the repeal made by section 703(a) is effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Repeal by Pub. L. 94-579 not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see section 701 of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of this title.

CHAPTER 18—SURVEY OF PUBLIC LANDS

Sec.	
751.	Rules of survey.
751a.	Survey system extended to Alaska.
751b.	Surveys in Nome and Fairbanks districts.
752.	Boundaries and contents of public lands; how ascertained.
753.	Lines of division of half quarter sections; how run.
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757.	Cost of survey of private land claims to be reported and paid.
758.	Delivery of patent contingent on refund of cost of survey.
759.	Survey for and by settlers in township.
760.	Deposit for expenses deemed an appropriation.
761.	Repayment of excess of deposits to cover cost of surveys of mineral lands.
762.	Deposits made by settlers for surveys to go in part payment of lands.
763.	Deposits in Louisiana applicable to resurveys.
764, 765.	Repealed.
766.	Geological surveys, extension of public surveys, expenses of subdividing.
767 to 769.	Repealed.
770.	Rectangular mode of survey; departure from.
771.	Repealed.
772.	Resurveys or retracements to mark boundaries of undisposed lands.
773.	Resurveys or retracements of township lines, etc.
774.	Protection of surveyor by marshal.
775.	Omitted.

§ 751. Rules of survey

The public lands shall be divided by north and south lines run according to the true meridian, and by others crossing them at right angles, so as to form townships of six miles square, unless where the line of an Indian reservation, or of tracts of land surveyed or patented prior to May 18, 1796, or the course of navigable rivers, may render this impracticable; and in that case this rule must be departed from no further than such particular circumstances require.

Second. The corners of the townships must be marked with progressive numbers from the be-

ginning; each distance of a mile between such corners must be also distinctly marked with marks different from those of the corners.

Third. The township shall be subdivided into sections, containing, as nearly as may be, six hundred and forty acres each, by running parallel lines through the same from east to west and from south to north at the distance of one mile from each other, and marking corners at the distance of each half mile. The sections shall be numbered, respectively, beginning with the number one in the northeast section and proceeding west and east alternately through the township with progressive numbers, until the thirty-six be completed.

Fourth. The deputy surveyors, respectively, shall cause to be marked on a tree near each corner established in the manner described, and within the section, the number of such section, and over it the number of the township within which such section may be; and the deputy surveyors shall carefully note, in their respective field books, the names of the corner trees marked and the numbers so made.

Fifth. Where the exterior lines of the townships which may be subdivided into sections or half-sections exceed, or do not extend six miles, the excess or deficiency shall be specially noted, and added to or deducted from the western and northern ranges of sections or half-sections in such township, according as the error may be in running the lines from east to west, or from north to south; the sections and half-sections bounded on the northern and western lines of such townships shall be sold as containing only the quantity expressed in the returns and plats respectively, and all others as containing the complete legal quantity.

Sixth. All lines shall be plainly marked upon trees, and measured with chains, containing two perches of sixteen and one-half feet each, subdivided into twenty-five equal links; and the chain shall be adjusted to a standard to be kept for that purpose.

Seventh. Every surveyor shall note in his field book the true situations of all mines, salt licks, salt springs, and mill-seats which come to his knowledge; all watercourses over which the line he runs may pass; and also the quality of the lands.

Eighth. These field books shall be returned to the Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate, who shall cause therefrom a description of the whole lands surveyed to be made out and transmitted to the officers who may superintend the sales. He shall also cause a fair plat to be made of the townships and fractional parts of townships contained in the lands, describing the subdivisions thereof, and the marks of the corners. This plat shall be recorded in books to be kept for that purpose; and a copy thereof shall be kept open at the office of the Secretary of the Interior or of such agency as he may designate for public information, and other copies shall be sent to the places of the sale, and to the Bureau of Land Management.

(R.S. §2395; Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 462, 43 Stat. 1144; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100; Apr. 29, 1950, ch. 134, §1, 64 Stat. 92.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. §2395 derived from acts May 18, 1796, ch. 29, §2, 1 Stat. 465; May 10, 1800, ch. 55, §3, 2 Stat. 73; Mar. 3, 1877, ch. 105, 19 Stat. 348.

AMENDMENTS

1950—Par. Third. Act Apr. 29, 1950, struck out provision that sections 1 mile square in townships be established by running survey lines 2 miles apart.

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 under section 1451 of this title.

In par. "Eighth", reference to "United States Supervisor of Surveys," changed to "Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate,;" "office of the Field Surveying Service" changed to "office of the Secretary of the Interior or of such agency as he may designate,;" and "General Land Office" changed to "Bureau of Land Management", on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

Act Mar. 3, 1925, abolished office of surveyor general and transferred administration of all activities in charge of surveyors general to Field Surveying Service under jurisdiction of United States Supervisor of Surveys.

LAND INFORMATION STUDY; REPORT TO CONGRESS

Pub. L. 100-409, §8, Aug. 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 1091, provided that:

"(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct an assessment of the need for and cost and benefits associated with improvements in the existing methods of land surveying and mapping and of collecting, storing, retrieving, disseminating, and using information about Federal and other lands.

"(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the assessment required by this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the following—

"(1) the Secretary of Agriculture;

"(2) the Secretary of Commerce;

"(3) the Director of the National Science Foundation;

"(4) representatives of State and local governments;

"(5) representatives of private sector surveying and mapping science.

"(c) REPORT.—No later than one year after the day of enactment of this Act [Aug. 20, 1988], the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the Congress concerning the results of the assessment required by this section.

"(d) TOPICS.—In the report required by subsection (c), the Secretary of the Interior shall include a discussion and evaluation of the following:

"(1) relevant recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council) on the concept of a multipurpose cadastre from time to time prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 20, 1988];

"(2) ongoing activities concerning development of an overall reference frame for land and resource information, including but not limited to a geodetic network, a series of current and accurate large-scale maps, cadastral overlay maps, unique identifying numbers linking specific land parcels to a common index of all land records in United States cadastral systems, and a series of land data files;

"(3) ways to achieve better definition of the roles of Federal and other governmental agencies and the private sector in dealing with land information systems;

"(4) ways to improve the coordination of Federal land information activities; and

"(5) model standards developed by the Secretary for compatible multipurpose land information systems

for use by Federal, State and local governmental agencies, the public, and the private sector.

“(e) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report required by subsection (c) may also include such recommendations for legislation as the Secretary of the Interior considers necessary or desirable.”

§ 751a. Survey system extended to Alaska

The system of public land surveys is extended to the Territory of Alaska.

(Mar. 3, 1899, ch. 424, 30 Stat. 1098.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 351 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

Section is from the Sundry Civil Appropriation Act, 1900.

ADMISSION OF ALASKA AS STATE

Admission of Alaska into the Union was accomplished Jan. 3, 1959, on issuance of Proc. No. 3269, Jan. 3, 1959, 24 F.R. 81, 73 Stat. c16, as required by sections 1 and 8(c) of Pub. L. 85-508, July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 339, set out as notes preceding section 21 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 751b. Surveys in Nome and Fairbanks districts

The Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate, shall furnish the land offices at Nome and Fairbanks a sufficient quantity of numbers to be used in the different classes of official surveys that may be made in the Nome and Fairbanks land districts to meet the requirements thereof, and upon application by any person desiring to have an official survey made such officers as the Secretary of the Interior may designate shall furnish a number or numbers for such survey or surveys, together with an order directing a qualified deputy surveyor to make the same, and such application, order, and the fee required to be paid shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate: *Provided*, That all surveys thus made shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate.

(Mar. 2, 1907, ch. 2537, § 4, 34 Stat. 1232; Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 462, 43 Stat. 1144; Oct. 9, 1942, ch. 584, § 2, 56 Stat. 779; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 352 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

REPEALS

Act Oct. 9, 1942, ch. 584, § 2, 56 Stat. 779, cited as a credit to this section, was repealed by Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 651.

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 under section 1451 of this title.

Functions of Supervisor of Surveys and Registers transferred to Secretary of the Interior or those officers as he may designate by section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

References to “receivers” changed to “registers” by act Oct. 9, 1942, which abolished office of receiver and

transferred functions to an employee to be designated by Secretary and to be performed under title “register”.

Act Mar. 3, 1925, abolished office of surveyor general and transferred administration of all activities in charge of surveyors general to Field Surveying Service under jurisdiction of United States Supervisor of Surveys.

§ 752. Boundaries and contents of public lands; how ascertained

The boundaries and contents of the several sections, half-sections, and quarter-sections of the public lands shall be ascertained in conformity with the following principles:

First. All the corners marked in the surveys, returned by the Secretary of the Interior or such agency as he may designate, shall be established as the proper corners of sections, or subdivisions of sections, which they were intended to designate; and the corners of half- and quarter-sections, not marked on the surveys, shall be placed as nearly as possible equidistant from two corners which stand on the same line.

Second. The boundary lines, actually run and marked in the surveys returned by the Secretary of the Interior or such agency as he may designate, shall be established as the proper boundary lines of the sections, or subdivisions, for which they were intended, and the length of such lines as returned, shall be held and considered as the true length thereof. And the boundary lines which have not been actually run and marked shall be ascertained, by running straight lines from the established corners to the opposite corresponding corners; but in those portions of the fractional townships where no such opposite corresponding corners have been or can be fixed, the boundary lines shall be ascertained by running from the established corners due north and south or east and west lines, as the case may be, to the watercourse, Indian boundary line, or other external boundary of such fractional township.

Third. Each section or subdivision of section, the contents whereof have been returned by the Secretary of the Interior or such agency as he may designate, shall be held and considered as containing the exact quantity expressed in such return; and the half sections and quarter sections, the contents whereof shall not have been thus returned, shall be held and considered as containing the one-half or the one-fourth part, respectively, of the returned contents of the section of which they may make part.

(R.S. § 2396; Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 462, 43 Stat. 1144; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2396 derived from act Feb. 11, 1805, ch. 14, § 2, 2 Stat. 313.

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 under section 1451 of this title.

In pars. “First”, “Second” and “Third”, reference to “Field Surveying Service” changed to “Secretary of