to insure as hereinafter provided, and, prior to the execution of insurance contracts and upon such terms as the Secretary shall prescribe, to make commitments to insure, the minimum annual amortization charge and an annual return on the outstanding investment of such investor in any project which is eligible for insurance as hereinafter provided in an amount (herein called the "insured annual return") equal to such rate of return, not exceeding 23/4 per centum per annum, on such outstanding investment as shall, after consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, be fixed in the insurance contract or in the commitment to insure: Provided, That any insurance contract made pursuant to this subchapter shall expire as of the first day of the operating year for which the outstanding investment amounts to not more than 10 per centum of the established investment.

(June 27, 1934, ch. 847, title VII, §701, as added Aug. 10, 1948, ch. 832, title IV, §401, 62 Stat. 1276; amended Apr. 20, 1950, ch. 94, title I, §122, 64 Stat. 59; Pub. L. 86–372, title I, §118, Sept. 23, 1959, 73 Stat. 664; Pub. L. 90–19, §1(a)(3), May 25, 1967, 81 Stat. 17.)

AMENDMENTS

 $1967\mathrm{-\!Pub}.$ L. $90\mathrm{-}19$ substituted "Secretary" for "Commissioner" wherever appearing.

1959—Pub. L. 86–372 struck out provisions which limited the aggregate amount of contingent liabilities outstanding at any one time under insurance contracts and commitments to insure made pursuant to this subchapter to not more than \$1,000,000,000.

1950—Act Apr. 20, 1950, substituted "Commissioner" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

SEPARABILITY

Act Aug. 10, 1948, ch. 832, title V, $\S505$, 62 Stat. 1285, provided that: "Except as may be otherwise expressly provided in this Act [sections 1701c, 1701e to 1701g–3, 1702, 1703, 1709, 1710, 1713, 1716, 1738, 1743 to 1746 and 1747 to 17471 of this title, section 846 of former Title 31, Money and Finance, section 694 of former Title 38, Pensions, Bonuses, and Veterans' Relief, and section 1404a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare], all powers and authorities conferred by this Act shall be cumulative and additional to and not in derogation of any powers and authorities otherwise existing. Notwithstanding any other evidences of the intention of Congress, it is hereby declared to be the controlling intent of Congress that if any provisions of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this Act or its application to other persons and circumstances, but shall be confined in its operation to the provisions of this Act, or the application thereof to the persons and circumstances, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS

Act Aug. 10, 1948, ch. 832, title V, §504, 62 Stat. 1285, provided that: "Insofar as the provisions of any other law are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act [sections 1701c, 1701c to 1701g–3, 1702, 1703, 1709, 1710, 1713, 1716, 1738, 1743 to 1746 and 1747 to 17471 of this title, section 846 of former Title 31, Money and Finance, section 694 of former Title 38, Pensions, Bonuses, and Veterans' Relief, and section 1404a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare], the provisions of this Act shall be controlling."

§ 1747a. Eligibility for insurance

- (a) To be eligible for insurance under this subchapter, a project shall meet the following conditions:
 - (1) The Secretary shall be satisfied that there is, in the locality or metropolitan area of such project, a need for new rental dwellings at rents comparable to the rents proposed to be charged for the dwellings in such project.
 - (2) Such project shall be economically sound, and the dwellings in such project shall be acceptable to the Secretary as to quality, design, size, and type.
- (b) Any insurance contract executed by the Secretary under this subchapter shall be conclusive evidence of the eligibility of the project and the investor for such insurance, and the validity of any insurance contract so executed shall be incontestable in the hands of an investor from the date of the execution of such contract, except for fraud or misrepresentation on the part of such investor.
- (c) After completion of the project the investor must establish in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary that the project is free and clear of liens and that there are no other outstanding unpaid obligations contracted in connection with the construction of the project, except taxes and such other liens and obligations as may be approved or prescribed by the Secretary. Debentures issued by the investor which are payable out of net income from the project and from the benefits of the insurance contract shall not be construed as "unpaid obligations" as such term is used in this subsection.

(June 27, 1934, ch. 847, title VII, §702, as added Aug. 10, 1948, ch. 832, title IV, §401, 62 Stat. 1276; amended Apr. 20, 1950, ch. 94, title I, §122, 64 Stat. 59; Sept. 1, 1951, ch. 378, title VI, §609(a), 65 Stat. 316; Pub. L. 90–19, §1(a)(3), May 25, 1967, 81 Stat. 17)

AMENDMENTS

1967—Pub. L. 90–19 substituted "Secretary" for "Commissioner" wherever appearing in subsecs. (a)(1), (2), (b), and (c).

1951—Subsec. (c). Act Sept. 1, 1951, added subsec. (c). 1950—Act Apr. 20, 1950, substituted "Commissioner" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

§1747b. Premium charges; fees for examination and inspection

(a) For insurance granted pursuant to this subchapter the Secretary shall fix and collect a premium charge in an amount not exceeding one-half of 1 per centum of the outstanding investment for the operating year for which such premium charge is payable without taking into account the excess earnings, if any, applied, in addition to the minimum annual amortization charge, to amortization of the outstanding investment. Such premium charge shall be payable annually in advance by the investor, either in cash or in debentures issued by the Secretary under this subchapter at par plus accrued interest: Provided, That, if in any operating year the gross income shall be less than the operating expenses, the premium charge payable during such operating year shall be waived, but only to the extent of the amount of the difference between

such expenses and such income and subject to subsequent payment out of any excess earnings as hereinafter provided.

(b) With respect to any project offered for insurance under this subchapter, the Secretary is authorized to charge and collect reasonable fees for examination, and for inspection during the construction of the project: *Provided*, That such fees shall not aggregate more than one-half of 1 per centum of the estimated investment.

(June 27, 1934, ch. 847, title VII, §703, as added Aug. 10, 1948, ch. 832, title IV, §401, 62 Stat. 1277; amended Apr. 20, 1950, ch. 94, title I, §122, 64 Stat. 59; Pub. L. 90–19, §1(a)(3), May 25, 1967, 81 Stat. 17.)

AMENDMENTS

1967—Pub. L. 90–19 substituted "Secretary" for "Commissioner" wherever appearing in subsecs. (a) and (b). 1950—Act Apr. 20, 1950, substituted "Commissioner" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

§ 1747c. Rent schedules

The Secretary shall require that the rents for the dwellings in any project insured under this subchapter shall be established in accordance with a rent schedule approved by the Secretary, and that the investor shall not charge or collect rents for any dwellings in the project in excess of the appropriate rents therefor as shown in the latest rent schedule approved pursuant to this section. Prior to approving the initial or any subsequent rent schedule pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall find that such schedule affords reasonable assurance that the rents to be established thereunder are (1) not lower than necessary, together with all other income to be derived from or in connection with the project, to produce reasonably stable revenues sufficient to provide for the payment of the operating expenses, the minimum annual amortization charge, and the minimum annual return; and (2) not higher than necessary to meet the need for dwellings for families of moderate income.

(June 27, 1934, ch. 847, title VII, §704, as added Aug. 10, 1948, ch. 832, title IV, §401, 62 Stat. 1277; amended Apr. 20, 1950, ch. 94, title I, §122, 64 Stat. 59; Pub. L. 90–19, §1(a)(3), May 25, 1967, 81 Stat. 17)

AMENDMENTS

1967—Pub. L. 90-19 substituted "Secretary" for "Commissioner" wherever appearing.

1950—Act Apr. 20, 1950, substituted "Commissioner" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

§ 1747d. Excess earnings used for amortization of original investment

For all of the purposes of any insurance contract made pursuant to this subchapter, 50 per centum of the excess earnings, if any, for any operating year may be applied, in addition to the minimum annual return, to return on the outstanding investment but only to the extent that such application thereof does not result in an annual return of more than 5 per centum of the outstanding investment for such operating year, and the balance of any such excess earnings shall be applied, in addition to the minimum annual amortization charge, to amortiza-

tion of the outstanding investment: Provided, That if in any preceding operating years the gross income shall have been less than the operating expenses, such excess earnings shall be applied to the extent necessary in whole or in part, first, to the reimbursement of the amount of the difference between such expenses (exclusive of any premium charges previously waived hereunder) and such income, and, second, to the payment of any premium charges previously waived hereunder.

(June 27, 1934, ch. 847, title VII, § 705, as added Aug. 10, 1948, ch. 832, title IV, § 401, 62 Stat. 1277.)

§ 1747e. Financial statements by Secretary

With respect to each project insured under this subchapter, the Secretary shall provide that, after the close of each operating year, the investor shall submit to him for approval a financial and operating statement covering such operating year. If any such financial and operating statement shall not have been submitted or, for proper cause, shall not have been approved by the Secretary, payment of any claim submitted by the investor may, at the option of the Secretary, be withheld, in whole or in part, until such statement shall have been submitted and approved.

(June 27, 1934, ch. 847, title VII, §706, as added Aug. 10, 1948, ch. 832, title IV, §401, 62 Stat. 1278; amended Apr. 20, 1950, ch. 94, title I, §122, 64 Stat. 59; Pub. L. 90–19, §1(a)(3), May 25, 1967, 81 Stat. 17.)

AMENDMENTS

1967—Pub. L. 90-19 substituted "Secretary" for "Commissioner" wherever appearing.

1950—Act Apr. 20, 1950, substituted "Commissioner" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

§ 1747f. Payment of claims; assignment of benefits by investors

If in any operating year the net income of a project insured under this subchapter is less than the aggregate of the minimum annual amortization charge and the insured annual return, the Secretary, upon submission by the investor of a claim for the payment of the amount of the difference between such net income and the aggregate of the minimum annual amortization charge and the insured annual return and after proof of the validity of such claim, shall pay to the investor, in cash from the General Insurance Fund, the amount of such difference, as determined by the Secretary, but not exceeding, in any event, an amount equal to the aggregate of the minimum annual amortization charge and the insured annual return. Nothing contained in this subchapter or any other provision of law shall be construed as preventing or restricting an investor from assigning, pledging, or otherwise transferring or disposing of, subject to rules and regulations of the Secretary, any or all rights, claims, or other benefits under any insurance contract made pursuant to this subchapter to an assignee, pledgee, or other transferee, including the holders (or the trustee for such holders) of any debentures issued by the investor in connection with the project to which such insurance contract relates, and the Sec-