

canals, rivers and harbors, or works of flood control, together with the necessary lands, easements, or rights-of-way, upon such terms and conditions and with or without consideration, as may be determined to be in the best interest of the United States by the Chief of Engineers: *Provided*, That such transferred bridges shall be toll-free.

(May 17, 1950, ch. 188, title I, §109, 64 Stat. 168.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the General Bridge Act of 1946 which comprises this subchapter.

### SUBCHAPTER IV—INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES

#### § 535. Congressional consent to construction, maintenance, and operation of international bridges; conditions of consent

The consent of Congress is hereby granted to the construction, maintenance, and operation of any bridge and approaches thereto, which will connect the United States with any foreign country (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as an “international bridge”) and to the collection of tolls for its use, so far as the United States has jurisdiction. Such consent shall be subject to (1) the approval of the proper authorities in the foreign country concerned; (2) the provisions of sections 491 to 494 and 495 to 498 of this title, except section 496 of this title, whether or not such bridge is to be built across or over any of the navigable waters of the United States; and (3) of the provisions of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 92-434, §2, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 731.)

#### SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 92-434, §1, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 731, provided: “That this Act [enacting this subchapter and amending section 129 of Title 23, Highways] may be cited as the ‘International Bridge Act of 1972.’”

#### § 535a. Congressional consent to State agreements with Canada and Mexico; Secretary of State’s approval of agreements

The consent of Congress is hereby granted for a State or a subdivision or instrumentality thereof to enter into agreements—

(1) with the Government of Canada, a Canadian Province, or a subdivision or instrumentality of either, in the case of a bridge connecting the United States and Canada, or

(2) with the Government of Mexico, a Mexican State, or a subdivision or instrumentality of either, in the case of a bridge connecting the United States and Mexico,

for the construction, operation, and maintenance of such bridge in accordance with the applicable provisions of this subchapter. The effectiveness of such agreement shall be conditioned on its approval by the Secretary of State.

(Pub. L. 92-434, §3, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 731.)

#### § 535b. Presidential approval; recommendations of Federal officials

No bridge may be constructed, maintained, and operated as provided in section 535 of this

title unless the President has given his approval thereto. In the course of determining whether to grant such approval, the President shall secure the advice and recommendations of (1) the United States section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, in the case of a bridge connecting the United States and Mexico, and (2) the heads of such departments and agencies of the Federal Government as he deems appropriate to determine the necessity for such bridge.

(Pub. L. 92-434, §4, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 731.)

#### § 535c. Approval of Secretary; commencement and completion requirements; extension of time limits

The approval of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, as required by section 491 of this title, shall be given only subsequent to the President’s approval, as provided for in section 535b of this title, and shall be null and void unless the construction of the bridge is commenced within two years and completed within five years from the date of the Secretary’s approval: *Provided, however*, That the Secretary, for good cause shown, may extend for a reasonable time either or both of the time limits herein provided.

(Pub. L. 92-434, §5, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 732; Pub. L. 114-120, title III, §306(b)(6)(A), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 56.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-120 substituted “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating” for “Secretary of Transportation”.

#### § 535d. Repealed. Pub. L. 100-17, title I, § 135(g), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 174

Section, Pub. L. 92-434, §6, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 732, directed that tolls charged for use of an international bridge constructed or acquired under this subchapter by private individual, company, or other private entity be collected for a reasonable period for amortization of construction or acquisition costs, plus interest and reasonable return, that at end of such period the United States portion of bridge become the property of the State having jurisdiction over such United States portion, and that accurate records on expenditures and tolls collected be kept and annually reported to Secretary of Transportation, with authority for Secretary to conduct audits.

#### § 535e. Ownership

##### (a) Sale, assignment, or transfer; approval of Secretary

Nothing in this subchapter shall be deemed to prevent the individual, corporation, or other entity to which, pursuant to this subchapter, authorization has been given to construct, operate, and maintain an international bridge and the approaches thereto, from selling, assigning, or transferring the rights, powers, and privileges conferred by this subchapter: *Provided*, That such sale, assignment, or transfer shall be subject to approval by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

**(b) State status of original applicant upon acquisition of right, title, and interest after termination of private entity licenses, contracts, or orders**

Upon the acquisition by a State or States, or by a subdivision or instrumentality thereof, of the right, title, and interest of a private individual, corporation, or other private entity, in and to an international bridge, any license, contract, or order issued or entered into by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, to or with such private individual, corporation, or other private entity, shall be deemed terminated forthwith. Thereafter, the State, subdivision, or instrumentality so acquiring shall operate and maintain such bridge in the same manner as if it had been the original applicant, and the provisions of section 535d<sup>1</sup> of this title shall not apply.

(Pub. L. 92-434, §8, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 732; Pub. L. 114-120, title III, §306(b)(6)(B), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 56.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 535d of this title, referred to in subsec. (b), was repealed by Pub. L. 100-17, title I, §135(g), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 174.

AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 114-120 substituted “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating” for “Secretary of Transportation”.

**§ 535f. Applicability of provisions**

This subchapter shall apply to all international bridges constructed under the authority of this subchapter. Section 535a of this title and section 129(a)(3) of title 23, shall apply to all international bridges the construction of which has been heretofore approved by Congress, notwithstanding any conflicting provision in any Act authorizing the construction of such a bridge or in any agreement entered into by the Federal Government and a State.

(Pub. L. 92-434, §9, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 733.)

**§ 535g. Federal navigable waters and commerce jurisdiction unaffected**

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect, impair, or diminish any right, power, or jurisdiction of the United States over or in regard to any navigable water or any interstate or foreign commerce.

(Pub. L. 92-434, §10, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 733.)

**§ 535h. Repealed. Pub. L. 114-120, title III, § 306(b)(6)(C), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 56**

Section, Pub. L. 92-434, §11, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 733, related to report of Secretary of Transportation’s approvals granted during fiscal year pursuant to section 535c of this title.

**§ 535i. Reservation of right to alter or repeal**

The right to alter, amend, or repeal this subchapter is expressly reserved.

(Pub. L. 92-434, §12, Sept. 26, 1972, 86 Stat. 733.)

**CHAPTER 12—RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS GENERALLY**

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<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.