

any time before final judgment, suggest and show to the court that he has conformed with the law, either becoming a bona fide resident of the United States, or by declaring his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, or by the doing or happening of any other act which, under the provisions of this chapter, would entitle him to hold or own real estate, which being admitted or proved, such suit shall be dismissed on payment of costs and a reasonable attorney fee to be fixed by the court.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, § 6, as added Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 619.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 76 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

§ 1507. Public lands

This chapter shall not in any manner be construed to authorize aliens to acquire title from the United States to any of the public lands of the United States or to in any manner affect or change the laws regulating the disposal of the public lands of the United States.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, § 7, as added Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 619; amended Feb. 23, 1905, ch. 733, § 1, 33 Stat. 733.)

CODIFICATION

Act Feb. 23, 1905, set out as section 1508 of this title, made sections 1501 to 1507 of this title applicable to the District of Columbia, on the basis of which certain provisions of this section were omitted.

Section was formerly classified to section 77 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

§ 1508. Application to District of Columbia

Aliens shall have the same rights and privileges concerning the acquisition, holding, owning, and disposition of real estate in the District of Columbia as are conferred upon aliens in respect of real estate in the Territories of the United States by this chapter.

(Feb. 23, 1905, ch. 733, § 1, 33 Stat. 733.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 78 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

Section was not enacted as part of act Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, 24 Stat. 476, which comprises this chapter.

REPEALS

Act Feb. 23, 1905, ch. 733, § 2, 33 Stat. 733, repealed all laws and parts of laws so far as they conflict with the provisions of this section.

§§ 1509 to 1512. Omitted

CODIFICATION

Sections 1509 to 1512, relating to Territory of Hawaii, were omitted in view of the admission of Hawaii into the Union. Sections were formerly classified to sections 83 to 86 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

Section 1509, acts Apr. 30, 1900, ch. 339, § 73(f), 31 Stat. 154; May 27, 1910, ch. 258, § 5, 36 Stat. 444; July 9, 1921, ch. 42, § 304, 42 Stat. 117, set out requirements for aliens who would be entitled to receive any certificate of occupation, right of purchase lease, cash freehold agreement, or special homestead agreement in public lands in Hawaii. Section was also classified to section 667 of this title.

Section 1510, acts Apr. 30, 1900, ch. 339, § 73(g), 31 Stat. 154; May 27, 1910, ch. 258, § 5, 36 Stat. 444; July 9, 1921, ch. 42, § 304, 42 Stat. 117, restricted conveyance or other transfer of public lands in Hawaii to aliens. Section was also classified to section 668 of this title.

Section 1511, acts Apr. 30, 1900, ch. 338, § 73(j), 31 Stat. 154; May 27, 1910, ch. 258, § 5, 36 Stat. 444; July 9, 1921, ch. 42, § 306, 42 Stat. 118, gave commissioner, with approval of governor, the right to give preferences in purchasing of public lands. Section was also classified to section 671 of this title.

Section 1512, acts Apr. 30, 1900, ch. 339, § 73(l), 31 Stat. 154; May 27, 1910, ch. 258, § 5, 36 Stat. 444; July 9, 1921, ch. 42, § 308, 42 Stat. 118, authorized sale of agricultural land in Hawaii for residential purposes to persons declaring intention to become citizens. Section was also classified to section 673 of this title.

CHAPTER 12—VIRGIN ISLANDS [1954]

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CONSTITUTIONS FOR VIRGIN ISLANDS AND GUAM:
ESTABLISHMENT; CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION

Pub. L. 94-584, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2899, as amended by Pub. L. 96-597, title V, § 501, Dec. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 3479; Pub. L. 111-194, § 2, June 30, 2010, 124 Stat. 1310, provided:

“[Section 1. Authorization to organize governments] That the Congress, recognizing the basic democratic principle of government by the consent of the governed, authorizes the peoples of the Virgin Islands and of Guam, respectively, to organize governments pursuant to constitutions of their own adoption as provided in this Act.

“SEC. 2. [Constitutional conventions and draft provisions] (a) The Legislatures of the Virgin Islands and Guam, respectively, are authorized to call constitutional conventions to draft, within the existing territorial-Federal relationship, constitutions for the local self-government of the people of the Virgin Islands and Guam.

“(b) Such constitutions shall—

“(1) recognize, and be consistent with, the sovereignty of the United States over the Virgin Islands and Guam, respectively, and the supremacy of the provisions of the Constitution, treaties, and laws of the United States applicable to the Virgin Islands and Guam, respectively, including, but not limited to, those provisions of the Organic Act [section 1405 et seq. of this title] and Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands [this chapter] and the Organic Act of Guam [section 1421 et seq. of this title] which do not relate to local self-government.

“(2) provide for a republican form of government, consisting of three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial;

“(3) contain a bill of rights;

“(4) deal with the subject matter of those provisions of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954, as amended, and the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, respectively, which relate to local self-government;

“(5) with reference to Guam, provided that the voting franchise may be vested only in residents of Guam who are citizens of the United States;

“(6) provide for a system of local courts consistent with the provisions of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, as amended; and

“(7) provide for the establishment of a system of local courts the provisions of which shall become effective no sooner than upon the enactment of legislation regulating the relationship between the local courts of Guam with the Federal judicial system.

“SEC. 3. [Selection and qualification of members] The members of such constitutional conventions shall be chosen as provided by the laws of the Virgin Islands and Guam, respectively (enacted after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1976]): *Provided, however*, That no person shall be eligible to be a member of the constitutional conventions, unless he is a citizen of the United States and qualified to vote in the Virgin Islands and Guam, respectively.

“SEC. 4. [Submittal of proposed constitutions to governors and President] The conventions shall submit to the Governor of the Virgin Islands a proposed constitution for the Virgin Islands and to the Governor of Guam a proposed constitution for Guam which shall comply with the requirements set forth in section 2(b) above. Such constitutions shall be submitted to the President of the United States by the Governors of the Virgin Islands and Guam.

“SEC. 5. [Transmittal to Congress and submittal to voters] (a) Within sixty calendar days after the respective date on which he has received each constitution, the President shall transmit such constitution together with his comments to the Congress.

“(b) The constitution, in each case, shall be deemed to have been approved by the Congress within 60 legislative days after its submission by the President, unless prior to that date the Congress has approved the constitution, or modified or amended it, in whole or in part, or has urged the constitutional convention to reconvene, by joint resolution.

“(c) REVISION OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a convention reconvenes and revises the proposed constitution, the convention shall resubmit the revised proposed constitution simultaneously to the Governor of the Virgin Islands and the President.

“(2) COMMENTS OF PRESIDENT.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the date of receipt of the revised proposed constitution, the President shall—

“(A) notify the convention, the Governor, and Congress of the comments of the President on the revised proposed constitution; and

“(B) publish the comments in the Federal Register.

“(d) As so approved or modified under subsection (b) (or, if revised pursuant to subsection (c), on publication of the comments of the President in the Federal Register), the constitutions shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the Virgin Islands and Guam, respectively, for acceptance or rejection through islandwide referendums to be conducted as provided under the laws of the Virgin Islands and Guam, respectively, (enacted after the date of enactment of this Act) [Oct. 21, 1976].

“(e) Upon approval by not less than a majority of the votes (counting only the affirmative or negative votes) participating in such referendums, the constitutions shall become effective in accordance with their terms.”

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1541. Organization and status

(a) Composition and territorial designation

The provisions of this chapter and the name “Virgin Islands” as used in this chapter, shall apply to and include the territorial domain, islands, cays, and waters acquired by the United States through cession of the Danish West Indian Islands by the convention between the United States of America and His Majesty the King of Denmark entered into August 4, 1916, and ratified by the Senate on September 7, 1916 (39 Stat. 1706). The Virgin Islands as above described are declared an unincorporated territory of the United States of America.

(b) Powers and legal status of government; capital and seat of government

The government of the Virgin Islands shall have the powers set forth in this chapter and