

(R.S. § 456; July 31, 1894, ch. 174, § 7, 28 Stat. 207; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### CODIFICATION

R.S. § 456 derived from act Apr. 25, 1812, ch. 68, § 9, 2 Stat. 717.

#### Executive Documents

##### 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.

“Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate” substituted for “Commissioner of the General Land Office” on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

#### § 15. Issuance and signing of patents by Secretary of the Interior; delegation of authority; notice

All patents for public lands shall be issued and signed by the Secretary of the Interior in the name of the United States: *Provided*, That the Secretary may delegate his authority under this section to officers or employees of the Department of the Interior, but notice of any such delegation shall be given by publication in the Federal Register.

(June 17, 1948, ch. 496, § 1, 62 Stat. 476.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 15, R.S. § 458; 1940 Reorg. Plan No. III, § 4 eff. June 30, 1940, 5 F.R. 2108, 54 Stat. 1232; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100, related to issuance of patents, prior to repeal by section 2(c) of act June 17, 1948.

#### Executive Documents

##### 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.

#### § 16. Engrossing and recording patents

The engrossing and recording of patents for public lands may be done by means of typewriters or other machines, under regulations to be made by the Secretary of the Interior and approved by the President.

(Mar. 2, 1895, ch. 177, § 3, 28 Stat. 807.)

#### § 17. Plats of land surveyed

The Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate shall, when required by the President or either House of Congress, make a plat of any land surveyed under the authority of the United States, and give such information respecting the public lands and concerning the

business of the Bureau of Land Management as shall be directed.

(R.S. § 455; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### CODIFICATION

R.S. § 455 derived from act Apr. 25, 1812, ch. 68, § 6, 2 Stat. 717.

#### Executive Documents

##### 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.

“Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate” substituted for “Commissioner of the General Land Office” and “Bureau of Land Management” for “his office” on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

#### § 18. Copies of papers filed

Whenever any person claiming to be interested in or entitled to land, under any grant or patent from the United States, applies to the Department of the Interior for copies of papers filed and remaining therein, in anywise affecting the title to such land, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to cause such copies to be made out and authenticated, under his hand and the seal of the Bureau of Land Management, for the person so applying.

(R.S. § 460; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### CODIFICATION

R.S. § 460 derived from acts Jan. 23, 1823, ch. 6, 3 Stat. 721; July 4, 1836, ch. 352, § 7, 5 Stat. 111.

#### Executive Documents

##### 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.

“Bureau of Land Management” substituted for “General Land Office” on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946. See note set out under section 1 of this title.

#### §§ 19 to 21. Repealed. Dec. 16, 1930, ch. 14, § 1, 46 Stat. 1029

Section 19, R.S. § 2469, related to certified copies of records of the General Land Office.

Section 20, R.S. § 2470, related to exemplification of the records of the General Land Office as evidence.

Section 21, R.S. § 461; acts Apr. 2, 1888, ch. 54, 25 Stat. 76; Oct. 12, 1888, ch. 1098, 25 Stat. 557; May 29, 1908, ch. 220, § 15, 35 Stat. 469; June 5, 1920, ch. 235, § 1, 41 Stat. 908, related to fees for exemplifications.

For Department of the Interior record provisions and Government records and papers, see section 1460 et seq.

of this title, and section 1733 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

**§ 22. Repealed. July 30, 1947, ch. 354, § 2, 61 Stat. 522**

Section, act June 5, 1920, ch. 235, 41 Stat. 908, related to cost of photolithographic copies of plats. See section 1460 of this title.

**§ 23. Repealed. Pub. L. 86-649, title II, § 202(b), July 14, 1960, 74 Stat. 507**

Section, act Feb. 14, 1931, ch. 187, 46 Stat. 1118, prescribed fees for depositions in hearings in Bureau of Land Management. See section 1371 of this title. Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

- Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 462, 43 Stat. 1145.
- June 5, 1924, ch. 264, 43 Stat. 395.
- Jan. 24, 1923, ch. 42, 42 Stat. 1179.
- May 24, 1922, ch. 199, 42 Stat. 558.
- Mar. 3, 1915, ch. 75, 38 Stat. 855.

**§ 24. Repealed. Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 632, 646, 647**

Section, acts May 10, 1926, ch. 277, 44 Stat. 456; Jan 12, 1927, ch. 27, 44 Stat. 938; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100, authorized payment of mileage for automobile travel.

**§§ 25 to 25b. Repealed. Oct. 25, 1951, ch. 562, § 1(25), 65 Stat. 639**

Section 25, act May 28, 1926, ch. 415, § 1, 44 Stat. 672, related to transfer of records of United States land office to any State upon closing of last United States land office in that State.

Section 25a, act May 28, 1926, ch. 415, § 2, 44 Stat. 673, related to transfer of field notes and maps of United States land office to any State upon closing of last United States land office in that State.

Section 25b, act May 28, 1926, ch. 415, § 3, 44 Stat. 673, related to requirement that State provide by law for preservation and access of records, field notes, and maps.

See section 3301 et seq. of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents.

**CHAPTER 2—UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

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- 35. Repealed.
- 36. Purchase of books.
- 36a. Acquisition of scientific or technical books, maps, etc., for library.
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- 36d. Cooperative agreements.
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- 38. Topographic surveys; marking elevations.
- 39, 40. Omitted.
- 41. Publications and reports; preparation and sale.
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- 42a. Use of receipts from sale of maps for map printing and distribution.
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- 50-1. Funds for mappings and investigations considered intragovernmental funds.
- 50a. Working capital fund for United States Geological Survey.
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- 50d. Services of students or recent graduates.
- 50e. USGS energy and minerals research facility.

**§ 31. Director of United States Geological Survey**

**(a) Establishment of office; appointment and duties; examination of geological structure, mineral resources, and products of national domain; prohibitions in respect to lands and surveys**

The Director of the United States Geological Survey, which office is established, under the Interior Department, shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. This officer shall have the direction of the United States Geological Survey, and the classification of the public lands and examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the national domain. The Director and members of the United States Geological Survey shall have no personal or private interests in the lands or mineral wealth of the region under survey, and shall execute no surveys or examinations for private parties or corporations.

**(b) Examination of geological structure, mineral resources, and products outside national domain**

The authority of the Secretary of the Interior, exercised through the United States Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior, to examine the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the national domain, is expanded to authorize such examinations outside the national domain where determined by the Secretary to be in the national interest.

(Mar. 3, 1879, ch. 182, 20 Stat. 394; Pub. L. 87-626, §§ 1, 2, Sept. 5, 1962, 76 Stat. 427; Pub. L. 93-608, § 2(6), Jan. 2, 1975, 88 Stat. 1971; Pub. L. 102-154, title I, Nov. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1000; Pub. L. 104-66, title I, § 1081(e), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 721.)