

**§ 1504. Conveyance of lands in Territories by aliens before escheat proceedings**

Any alien who shall hold lands in any of the Territories of the United States in contravention of the provisions of this chapter may nevertheless convey his title thereto at any time before the institution of escheat proceedings as hereinafter provided. If any such conveyance shall be made by such alien, either to an alien or to a citizen of the United States, in trust and for the purpose and with the intention of evading the provisions of this chapter, such conveyance shall be null and void, and any such lands so conveyed shall be forfeited and escheat to the United States.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, § 4, 24 Stat. 477; Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 618.)

**Editorial Notes**

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 74 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

**§ 1505. Proceedings for escheat of improperly held lands**

It shall be the duty of the Attorney General of the United States, when he shall be informed or have reason to believe that lands in any of the Territories of the United States are being held contrary to the provisions of this chapter, to institute or cause to be instituted suit in behalf of the United States in the district court of the Territory in the district where such land or a part thereof may be situated, praying for the escheat of the same on behalf of the United States to the United States. Before any such suit is instituted the Attorney General shall give or cause to be given ninety days' notice by registered letter of his intention to sue, or by personal notice directed to or delivered to the owner of said land, or the person who last rendered the same for taxation, or his agent, and to all other persons having an interest in such lands of which he may have actual or constructive notice. In the event personal notice cannot be obtained in some one of the modes above provided, then said notice shall be given by publication in some newspaper published in the county where the land is situate, and if no newspaper is published in said county then the said notice shall be published in some newspaper nearest said county.

(Mar. 3, 1887, ch. 340, § 5, as added Mar. 2, 1897, ch. 363, 29 Stat. 619.)

**Editorial Notes**

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 75 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

**§ 1506. Condemnation and sale of lands in escheat proceedings**

If it shall be determined upon the trial of any such escheat proceedings that the lands are held contrary to the provisions of this chapter, the court trying said cause shall render judgment condemning such lands and shall order the same

to be sold as under execution; and the proceeds of such sale, after deducting costs of such suit, shall be paid to the clerk of such court so rendering judgment, and said fund shall remain in the hands of such clerk for one year from the date of such payment, subject to the order of the alien owner of such lands, or his heirs or legal representatives; and if not claimed within the period of one year, such clerk shall pay the same into the treasury of the Territory in which the lands may be situated, for the benefit of the available school fund of said Territory. The defendant in any such escheat proceedings may, at 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.)

**Editorial Notes**

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.)

**Editorial Notes**

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.)

**Editorial Notes**

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.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

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**

**Editorial Notes**

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]**

**SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- Sec. 1541. Organization and status.
- 1542. Voting franchise; discrimination prohibited.
- 1543. United States citizenship requirement for government officials.
- 1544. Reports by Governor; jurisdiction of Secretary of the Interior; exceptions.
- 1545. Lease and sale of public property; conveyance of title in certain lands to the government of Virgin Islands.
- 1546. Authorization of appropriations.

**SUBCHAPTER II—BILL OF RIGHTS**

- 1561. Rights and prohibitions.

**SUBCHAPTER III—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

- 1571. Legislature.
- 1572. Legislators.
- 1573. Time, frequency, and duration of regular sessions; special sessions; place of holding.
- 1574. Legislative powers and activities.
- 1574-1. Applicability of laws referred to in section 502(a)(1) of Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- 1574a. Revenue bonds or other obligations.
- 1574b. Federal guarantee for issuance of revenue bonds or other obligations.
- 1574c. Priority for payment of principal and interest of revenue bonds or other obligations.
- 1574d. Repealed.
- 1575. Legislative procedure.
- 1576. General elections; time; transfer of Council functions, property, etc.

Sec.

**SUBCHAPTER IV—EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

- 1591. Governor and Lieutenant Governor; election; eligibility; official residence; powers and duties; report.
- 1592. Repealed.
- 1593. Initiative and recall.
- 1594. Repealed.
- 1595. Vacancy in office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor.
- 1596. Repealed.
- 1597. Reorganization of government.
- 1598. Omitted.
- 1599. Transfer of functions from government controller for Virgin Islands to Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

**SUBCHAPTER V—JUDICIAL BRANCH**

- 1611. District Court of Virgin Islands; local courts; jurisdiction; practice and procedure.
- 1612. Jurisdiction of District Court.
- 1613. Relations between courts of United States and courts of Virgin Islands; review by United States Court of Appeals for Third Circuit; reports to Congress; rules.
- 1613a. Appellate jurisdiction of District Court; procedure; review by United States Court of Appeals for Third Circuit; rules; appeals to appellate court.
- 1614. Judges of District Court.
- 1615. Judicial divisions.
- 1616. Trial by jury.
- 1617. United States attorney; appointment; duties.

**SUBCHAPTER VI—SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS**

- 1631. Establishment and maintenance; scope.
- 1632. Repealed.

**SUBCHAPTER VII—FISCAL PROVISIONS**

- 1641. Method of payment of official salaries.
- 1642. Use of certain proceeds for expenditure; income tax obligations of inhabitants.
- 1642a. Availability of collected customs duties for expenditures as Legislature may provide.
- 1643. Import provisions with respect to trademarks.
- 1644. Import duties on articles entering United States or possessions from Virgin Islands.
- 1645. Remittance of duties, taxes, and fees to be collected in next fiscal year; authorization, prerequisites, amount, etc.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**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