

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

A new organic act, or basic charter of civil government, for the people of the Virgin Islands of the United States, was passed in 1954. Act July 22, 1954, ch. 558, 68 Stat. 497, known as the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, is set out as section 1541 et seq. of this title. Section 8(c) of the Revised Organic Act, set out as section 1574(c) of this title, provides that laws of the United States, set out generally in this chapter, as well as local laws and ordinances, including provisions of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, act June 22, 1936, ch. 699, 49 Stat. 1807, section 1405 et seq. of this title, in force on July 22, 1954, and not inconsistent with act July 22, 1954, are to remain in force and effect until otherwise changed.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

For additional provisions, constituting a revision of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, see section 1541 et seq. of this title.

DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM VIRGIN ISLANDS

Provisions respecting representation in Congress by a Delegate from Virgin Islands to the House of Representatives, see section 1711 et seq. of this title.

§ 1391. Repealed. Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 643

Section, act Mar. 3, 1917, ch. 171, § 1, 39 Stat. 1132, provided for appointment and pay of Governor of Virgin Islands and other employees.

§ 1392. Local laws continued; courts

Until Congress shall otherwise provide, insofar as compatible with the changed sovereignty and not in conflict with the provisions of this section and sections 1391¹ and 1394 to 1396 of this title, the laws regulating elections and the electoral franchise as set forth in the code of laws published at Amalienborg the 6th day of April, 1906, and the other local laws, in force and effect in said islands on the 17th day of January, 1917, shall remain in force and effect in said islands, and the same shall be administered by the civil officials and through the local judicial tribunals established in said islands, respectively; and the orders, judgments, and decrees of said judicial tribunals shall be duly enforced. With the approval of the President, or under such rules and regulations as the President may prescribe, any of said laws may be repealed, altered, or amended by the colonial council having jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the judicial tribunals of said islands shall extend to all judicial proceedings and controversies in said islands to which the United States or any citizen thereof may be a party.

(Mar. 3, 1917, ch. 171, § 2, 39 Stat. 1132; June 25, 1948, ch. 646, § 39, 62 Stat. 992.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1391 of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 643.

¹ See References in Text note below.

AMENDMENTS

1948—Act June 25, 1948, repealed last sentence relating to appeals. See section 1294 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1948 AMENDMENT

Amendment by act June 25, 1948, effective Sept. 1, 1948, see section 38 of that act set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 1 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

§ 1392a. Repealed. Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 650, 654

Section, acts May 24, 1940, ch. 209, § 3, 54 Stat. 220; July 31, 1946, ch. 704, § 1, 60 Stat. 716; June 25, 1948, ch. 646, § 30, 62 Stat. 991, related to salary of judge of District Court.

Section was formerly classified to section 5a of Title 28 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, by act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, § 1, 62 Stat. 869.

§ 1392b. Repealed. Pub. L. 97-357, title III, § 308(c), Oct. 19, 1982, 96 Stat. 1710

Section, act July 1, 1932, ch. 370, § 2, 47 Stat. 565, vested in District Court of Virgin Islands jurisdiction of prosecutions for violations of section 1399 of this title, relating to obstruction of navigable waters.

§ 1393. Repealed. Pub. L. 97-357, title III, § 308(a), Oct. 19, 1982, 96 Stat. 1710

Section, act July 12, 1921, ch. 44, § 1, 42 Stat. 123, declared as ineligible to hold office as a member of colonial councils of Virgin Islands or any other public office under Virgin Islands government, anyone owing allegiance to any country other than United States.

§ 1394. Customs duties and internal-revenue taxes

There shall be levied, collected, and paid upon all articles coming into the United States or its possessions from the Virgin Islands the rates of duty and internal-revenue taxes which are required to be levied, collected, and paid upon like articles imported from foreign countries: *Provided*, That all articles, the growth or product of, or manufactured in, such islands, from materials the growth or product of such islands or of the United States, or of both, or which do not contain foreign materials to the value of more than 20 per centum of their total value, upon which no drawback of customs duties has been allowed therein, coming into the United States from such islands shall be admitted free of duty. In determining whether such a Virgin Islands article contains foreign material to the value of more than 20 per centum, no material shall be considered foreign which, at the time the Virgin Islands article is entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, may be imported into the continental United States free of duty generally.

(Mar. 3, 1917, ch. 171, § 3, 39 Stat. 1133; Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 909, 64 Stat. 784.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1950—Act Sept. 7, 1950, permitted free entry of articles into the United States from the Virgin Islands

when such articles contain foreign materials which may be imported directly into the United States free of duty.

§ 1395. Tax laws continued; tax on sugar

Until Congress shall otherwise provide all laws now imposing taxes in the said West Indian Islands, including the customs laws and regulations, shall, insofar as compatible with the changed sovereignty and not otherwise herein provided, continue in force and effect, except that articles the growth, product, or manufacture of the United States shall be admitted there free of duty: *Provided*, That upon exportation of sugar to any foreign country, or the shipment thereof to the United States or any of its possessions, there shall be levied, collected, and paid thereon an export duty of \$6 per ton of two thousand pounds, irrespective of polariscope test, in lieu of any export tax now required by law: *Provided further*, That the internal revenue taxes levied by the Colonial Council of Saint Croix, or by the Colonial Council of Saint Thomas and Saint John, in pursuance of the authority granted by this section and sections 1391,¹ 1392, 1394, and 1396 of this title on articles, goods, wares, or merchandise may be levied and collected as the Colonial Council of Saint Croix, or as the Colonial Council of Saint Thomas and Saint John, may direct, on the articles subject to said tax, as soon as the same are manufactured, sold, used, or brought into the island: *And provided further*, That no discrimination be made between the articles imported from the United States or foreign countries and similar articles produced or manufactured in the municipality of Saint Croix, or in the municipality of Saint Thomas and Saint John, respectively. The officials of the Customs and Postal Services of the United States are directed to assist the appropriate officials of the municipality of Saint Croix, or of the municipality of Saint Thomas and Saint John, in the collection of these taxes.

(Mar. 3, 1917, ch. 171, § 4, 39 Stat. 1133; Feb. 25, 1927, ch. 192, § 5, 44 Stat. 1235; June 24, 1932, ch. 275, 47 Stat. 333.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1391 of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 643.

AMENDMENTS

1932—Act June 24, 1932, inserted provisos permitting local levy of internal revenue taxes, prohibiting discrimination against imports, and directing customs and postal services to assist in collecting taxes.

1927—Act Feb. 25, 1927, reduced export duty on sugar from \$8 to \$6 per ton.

§ 1396. Duties and taxes covered into Virgin Islands treasury

The duties and taxes collected in pursuance of sections 1394 and 1395 of this title shall not be covered into the general fund of the Treasury of the United States, but shall be used and expended for the government and benefit of the Virgin Islands, under such rules and regulations as the President may prescribe.

¹ See References in Text note below.

(Mar. 3, 1917, ch. 171, § 5, 39 Stat. 1133.)

§ 1397. Income tax laws of United States in force; payment of proceeds; levy of surtax on all taxpayers

The income-tax laws in force in the United States of America and those which may hereafter be enacted shall be held to be likewise in force in the Virgin Islands of the United States, except that the proceeds of such taxes shall be paid into the treasuries of said islands: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands is authorized to levy a surtax on all taxpayers in an amount not to exceed 10 per centum of their annual income tax obligation to the government of the Virgin Islands.

(July 12, 1921, ch. 44, § 1, 42 Stat. 123; Pub. L. 94-392, § 5, Aug. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 1195.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The income-tax laws in force in the United States of America, referred to in text, are classified to Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

CODIFICATION

Section is from act July 12, 1921, popularly known as the Naval Service Appropriation Act, 1922.

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-392 inserted proviso authorizing Legislature of Virgin Islands to levy a surtax, not to exceed 10 per centum, on annual income tax obligation of all taxpayers.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

APPLICATION OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRADE CORPORATION PROVISION UNDER THE VIRGIN ISLANDS TAX LAWS

Pub. L. 92-178, title III, § 307, Dec. 10, 1971, 85 Stat. 524, provided that for purposes of applying the income tax laws of the United States with respect to the Virgin Islands under this section, subpart C of part III of subchapter N of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 [former 26 U.S.C. 921, 922] (relating to Western Hemisphere Trade Corporations) shall be treated as having been repealed effective with respect to taxable years beginning after Dec. 10, 1971.

§ 1398. Omitted

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section, act July 1, 1922, ch. 259, 42 Stat. 788, which related to quarantine and passport fees, was from the Navy Department and Naval Service Appropriation Act, 1923, was not repeated in subsequent years. See section 1642 of this title.

§ 1399. Repealed. Pub. L. 97-357, title III, § 308(b), Oct. 19, 1982, 96 Stat. 1710

Section, acts July 3, 1930, ch. 847, § 8, 46 Stat. 948; July 1, 1932, ch. 370, § 1, 47 Stat. 565, made applicable to the Virgin Islands and the navigable waters thereof, certain provisions of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters, relating to obstruction of navigable waters.

§ 1400. Repealed. Pub. L. 98-454, title VII, § 709, Oct. 5, 1984, 98 Stat. 1741

Section, act May 20, 1932, ch. 194, 47 Stat. 160, related to extension of admiralty laws of the United States to Virgin Islands.