

**§ 701a. Declaration of policy of 1936 act**

It is recognized that destructive floods upon the rivers of the United States, upsetting orderly processes and causing loss of life and property, including the erosion of lands, and impairing and obstructing navigation, highways, railroads, and other channels of commerce between the States, constitute a menace to national welfare; that it is the sense of Congress that flood control on navigable waters or their tributaries is a proper activity of the Federal Government in cooperation with States, their political subdivisions, and localities thereof; that investigations and improvements of rivers and other waterways, including watersheds thereof, for flood-control purposes are in the interest of the general welfare; that the Federal Government should improve or participate in the improvement of navigable waters or their tributaries, including watersheds thereof, for flood-control purposes if the benefits to whomsoever they may accrue are in excess of the estimated costs, and if the lives and social security of people are otherwise adversely affected.

(June 22, 1936, ch. 688, § 1, 49 Stat. 1570.)

**§ 701a-1. "Flood control" defined; jurisdiction of Federal investigations**

The words "flood control" as used in section 701a of this title, shall be construed to include channel and major drainage improvements and flood prevention improvements for protection from groundwater-induced damages, and Federal investigations and improvements of rivers and other waterways for flood control and allied purposes shall be under the jurisdiction of and shall be prosecuted by the Department of the Army under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and supervision of the Chief of Engineers, and Federal investigations of watersheds and measures for run-off and water-flow retardation and soil-erosion prevention on watersheds shall be under the jurisdiction of and shall be prosecuted by the Department of Agriculture under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, except as otherwise provided by Act of Congress. (Dec. 22, 1944, ch. 665, § 2, 58 Stat. 889; July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, § 205(a), 61 Stat. 501; Pub. L. 99-662, title IV, § 403, Nov. 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 4133.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-662 inserted "and flood prevention improvements for protection from groundwater-induced damages" after "drainage improvements".

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## CHANGE OF NAME

Department of War designated Department of the Army and title of Secretary of War changed to Secretary of the Army by section 205(a) of act July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, 61 Stat. 501. Section 205(a) of act July 26, 1947, was repealed by section 53 of act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 641. Section 1 of act Aug. 10, 1956, enacted "Title 10, Armed Forces" which in sections 3010 to 3013 continued Department of the Army under administrative supervision of Secretary of the Army.

## SAVINGS PROVISION

Authority of Secretary of Agriculture under this section as unaffected by repeal of Secretary's authority

under section 701b of this title, see section 7 of act Aug. 4, 1954, set out as a note under section 701b of this title.

## SECTION AS UNAFFECTED BY SUBMERGED LANDS ACT

Provisions of this section as not amended, modified or repealed by the Submerged Lands Act, see section 1303 of Title 43, Public Lands.

**§ 701b. Supervision of Secretary of the Army; reclamation projects unaffected**

Federal investigations and improvements of rivers and other waterways for flood control and allied purposes shall be under the jurisdiction of and shall be prosecuted by the Department of the Army under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and supervision of the Chief of Engineers, except as otherwise provided by Act of Congress; and in his reports upon examinations and surveys, the Secretary of the Army shall be guided as to flood-control measures by the principles set forth in section 701a of this title in the determination of the Federal interests involved: *Provided*, That the foregoing grant of authority shall not interfere with investigations and river improvements incident to reclamation projects that may now be in progress or may be hereafter undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation of the Interior Department pursuant to any general or specific authorization of law.

(June 22, 1936, ch. 688, § 2, 49 Stat. 1570; June 28, 1938, ch. 795, § 1, 52 Stat. 1215; Aug. 18, 1941, ch. 377, § 1, 55 Stat. 638; July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, § 205(a), 61 Stat. 501; Aug. 4, 1954, ch. 656, § 7, 68 Stat. 668.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

1954—Act Aug. 4, 1954, repealed provisions conferring authority on the Department of Agriculture under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture to make preliminary examinations and surveys and to prosecute works of improvement for runoff and waterflow retardation and soil erosion prevention on the watersheds of rivers and other waterways.

1941—Act Aug. 18, 1941, reenacted without change portion of section preceding semicolon.

1938—Act June 28, 1938, reenacted without change portion of section preceding semicolon.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## CHANGE OF NAME

Department of War designated Department of the Army and title of Secretary of War changed to Secretary of the Army by section 205(a) of act July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, 61 Stat. 501. Section 205(a) of act July 26, 1947, was repealed by section 53 of act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 641. Section 1 of act Aug. 10, 1956, enacted "Title 10, Armed Forces" which in sections 3010 to 3013 continued Department of the Army under administrative supervision of Secretary of the Army.

## SAVINGS PROVISION

Act Aug. 4, 1954, ch. 656, § 7, 68 Stat. 668, which amended this section by repealing provisions relating to the Department of Agriculture, provided in part that: "(a) the authority of that Department of Agriculture, under the direction of the Secretary, to prosecute the works of improvement for runoff and waterflow retardation and soil erosion prevention authorized to be carried out by the Department by the act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887), as amended [section 701a-1 of this title], and (b) the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to un-