

TITLE LV.

LIGHTS AND BUOYS.

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SEC. 4653. The President shall appoint two officers of the Navy, of high rank, two officers of the Corps of Engineers of the Army, and two civilians of high scientific attainments, whose services may be at the disposal of the President, together with an officer of the Navy and an officer of engineers of the Army, as secretaries, who shall constitute the Light-House Board.

Organization of the Light-House Board.

31 Aug., 1852, c. 112, s. 8, v. 10, p. 119.

SEC. 4654. The Secretary of the Treasury shall be ex-officio president of the Light-House Board.

President of the board.

Ibid., s. 9.

SEC. 4655. The Light-House Board shall elect, by ballot, one of their number as chairman of the board, who shall preside at their meetings, when the president is absent, and shall perform such acts as may be prescribed by the rules of the board.

Chairman.

Ibid.

SEC. 4656. The Light-House Board shall meet, for the transaction of business, on the first Mondays in March, June, September, and December. But the Secretary of the Treasury may convene the board whenever, in his judgment, the exigencies of the service require it.

Meetings of the board.

Ibid., ss. 8, 10.

SEC. 4657. The Light-House Board may adopt such regulations for the government of their meetings as they judge expedient.

Regulation of meetings.

Ibid., s. 8.

SEC. 4658. The Light-House Board shall be attached to the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, and under his superintendence shall discharge all administrative duties relating to the construction, illumination, inspection, and superintendence of light-houses, light-vessels, beacons, buoys, sea-marks, and their appendages, and embracing the security of foundations of works already existing, procuring illuminating and other apparatus, supplies, and materials for all kinds for building, and for rebuilding when necessary, and keeping in good repair the light-houses, light-vessels, beacons, and buoys of the United States; and shall have the charge and custody of all the archives, books, documents, drawings, models, returns, apparatus, and other things appertaining to the Light-House Establishment.

General powers and duties of board.

Ibid., ss. 8, 10.

Estimates of light-house expenses.

Ibid., s. 16, p. 120.

Purchase of sites for light-houses.

2 March, 1867, c. 167, s. 4, v. 14, p. 466.

Cession of jurisdiction requisite.

3 March, 1821, c. 52, s. 3, v. 3, p. 644.

What cession is sufficient.

2 March, 1795, c. 40, ss. 1, 2, v. 1, p. 426.

Preliminary surveys.

3 March, 1851, c. 37, ss. 2, 3, 4, v. 9, pp. 628, 629.

31 Aug., 1852, c. 112, ss. 5, 6, 7, v. 10, p. 118.

18 Aug., 1856, c. 160, s. 5, v. 11, p. 101.

3 March, 1859, c. 81, s. 6, v. 11, p. 424.

3 March, 1863, c. 78, s. 1, v. 12, p. 743.

Superintendents of construction, &c., of light-houses.

3 March, 1831, c. 37, s. 9, v. 9, p. 629.

Contracts must be founded on official plans and on a vote of the board.

31 Aug., 1852, c. 112, s. 14, v. 10, p. 120.

Regulation of contracts for materials, &c.

Ibid., s. 14.

Contracts for erection must be upon advertisement for proposals.

2 March, 1867, c. 149, s. 1, v. 14, p. 425.

SEC. 4659. The Light-House Board shall furnish, upon the requisition of the Secretary of the Treasury, all the estimates of expense which the several branches of the light-house service may require, and such other information as may be required, to be laid before Congress at the commencement of each session. [See § 3085.]

SEC. 4660. The Light-House Board is authorized, whenever an appropriation has been or may be made by Congress for a new light-house, the proper site for which does not belong to the United States, to purchase the necessary land, provided the purchase-money be paid from the amount appropriated for such light-house. [See § 355.]

SEC. 4661. No light-house, beacon, public piers, or landmark, shall be built or erected on any site until cession of jurisdiction over the same has been made to the United States. [See § 1838.]

15 May, 1820, c. 112, s. 1, v. 3, p. 598.

SEC. 4662. A cession by a State of jurisdiction over a place selected as the site of a light-house, or other structure or work of the Light-House Establishment, shall be deemed sufficient within the preceding section, notwithstanding it contains a reservation that process issued under authority of such State may continue to be served within such place. And notwithstanding any such cession of jurisdiction contains no such reservation, all process may be served and executed within the place ceded, in the same manner as if no cession had been made.

SEC. 4663. Whenever preliminary surveys are required to ascertain the necessity for any light-house, light-ship, beacon, or other warning to vessels, the erection of which is or may be authorized by law, or to determine the proper site for the same, or to ascertain more fully what the public exigency requires, the Secretary of the Treasury may cause the necessary examinations and surveys on the sea-board to be made under the direction of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and those on the northwestern lakes to be made under the direction of the Corps of Engineers. In all cases in which adverse reports are made, they shall be submitted to Congress at its next session. In all cases in which the objects authorized are favorably reported upon, the works may be commenced immediately after valid titles and cessions of jurisdiction shall have been obtained to the sites.

SEC. 4664. The President shall cause to be detailed from the Engineer Corps of the Army, from time to time, such officers as may be necessary to superintend the construction and renovation of light-houses.

SEC. 4665. The Light-House Board shall cause to be prepared by the engineer secretary of the board, or by such officer of engineers of the Army as may be detailed for that service, all plans, drawings, specifications, and estimates of cost, of all illuminating and other apparatus, and of construction and repair of towers, buildings, &c., connected with the Light-House Establishment, and no bid or contract shall be accepted or entered into, except upon the decision of the board, at a regular or special meeting, and through their properly authorized officers.

SEC. 4666. All materials for the construction and repair of light-houses, light-vessels, beacons, buoys, and so forth, shall be procured by public contracts, under such regulations as the board may from time to time adopt, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, and all works of construction, renovation, and repair shall be made by the orders of the board, under the immediate superintendence of their engineer secretary, or of such engineer of the Army as may be detailed for that service.

SEC. 4667. No contract for the erection of any light-house shall be made except after public advertisement for proposals in such form and manner as to secure general notice thereof, and the same shall only be made with the lowest bidder therefor, upon security deemed sufficient in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 4668. Whenever any of the light-vessels occupying positions which are adapted to the erection of light-houses upon pile-foundations require to be rebuilt, or require such extensive repairs as to render the substitution of such light-houses advisable and practicable, such permanent structures may be erected in place of any such light-vessels; but the expense arising from all such changes and erections shall be defrayed from the general annual appropriations for repairs, and so forth, of light-vessels, except when a special appropriation is made for such change.

Substitution of light-houses for light-ships.

3 March, 1859, c. 81, s. 2, v. 11, p. 424.

SEC. 4669. The Light-House Board, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall prescribe, and from time to time may alter or amend, and cause to be distributed, such regulations as they deem proper for securing an efficient, uniform, and economical administration of the Light-House Establishment.

Regulations for the light-house service.

31 Aug., 1852, c. 112, s. 13, v. 10, p. 120.

SEC. 4670. The Light-House Board shall arrange the Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific, and Lake coasts of the United States, into light-house districts, not exceeding twelve in number.

Light-house districts.

Ibid., s. 12, p. 119.

Light-house inspectors.

Ibid., s. 12.

SEC. 4671. An officer of the Army or Navy shall be assigned to each district as a light-house inspector, subject to the orders of the Light-House Board; and shall receive for such service the same pay and emoluments that he would be entitled to by law for the performance of duty in the regular line of his profession, and no other, except the legal allowance per mile, when traveling under orders connected with his duties.

SEC. 4672. The Secretary of the Treasury shall assign to any of the collectors of the customs the superintendence of such light-houses, beacons, light-ships, and buoys, as he deems best; but no person whose compensation as collector of customs exceeds three thousand dollars a year shall receive any compensation as disbursing agent for the Light-House Establishment, whether the sums disbursed by him be for articles to be used or services rendered within or without the limits of his superintendency or collection-district: *Provided*, That where the compensation of any collector as disbursing agent is not more than three thousand dollars a year, such agent shall receive for such services not more than four hundred dollars in any fiscal year.

Collectors of customs to act as superintendents.

28 Sept., 1850, c. 77, s. 7, v. 9, p. 504.

2 March, 1867, c. 167, s. 4, v. 14, p. 466.

SEC. 4673. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to regulate the salaries of the respective keepers of light-houses in such manner as he deems just and proper, but the whole sum allowed for such salaries shall not exceed an average of six hundred dollars to each keeper. [Sec § 4245.]

Their compensation.

2 March, 1867, c. 149, s. 4, v. 14, p. 425.

SEC. 4674. The Secretary of the Treasury may, upon the recommendation of the Light-House Board, discontinue from time to time such lights as may from any cause become useless or unnecessary. And he may, upon the like recommendation, from time to time re-establish any lights which have been thus discontinued, whenever he believes such re-establishment to be required by public convenience or the necessities of trade or commerce. [Sec § 5358.]

Discontinuance and re-establishment of lights.

3 March, 1859, c. 81, s. 3, v. 11, p. 424.

SEC. 4675. The Secretary of the Treasury may, after a week's notice to the public, sell and convey any real estate no longer used for light-house purposes, the avails of such sale to be paid into the national Treasury.

Sale of useless sites.

3 March, 1869, c. 122, s. 1, v. 15, pp. 301, 304.

SEC. 4676. The Light-House Board may, when they deem it is necessary, place a light-vessel, or other suitable warning of danger, on or over any wreck or temporary obstruction to the entrance of any harbor, or in the channel or fairway of any bay or sound.

Warnings to be placed over obstructions, &c.

2 March, 1868, Res. No. 16, s. 1, v. 15, p. 249.

SEC. 4677. The Light-House Board shall properly mark all pier-heads belonging to the United States situated on the northern and northwestern lakes, whenever the board is duly notified by the department charged with the construction or repair of pier-heads that the construction or repair of any such pier-heads has been completed.

Pier-heads to be marked.

15 July, 1870, c. 292, s. 3, v. 16, p. 309.

Color of buoys
prescribed.

28 Sept., 1850, c.
77, s. 6, v. 9, p. 504.

SEC. 4678. All buoys along the coast, or in bays, harbors, sounds, or channels, shall be colored and numbered, so that passing up the coast or sound, or entering the bay, harbor, or channel, red buoys with even numbers shall be passed on the starboard hand, black buoys with uneven numbers on the port hand, and buoys with red and black stripes on either hand. Buoys in channel-ways shall be colored with alternate white and black perpendicular stripes.

Restriction upon
c o m p e n s a t i o n of
officers, &c.

31 Aug., 1852, c. 112, s. 17, v. 10, p. 120.

Officers, &c., not
to be interested in
contracts.

31 Aug., 1852, c.
112, s. 17, v. 10, p.
120.

SEC. 4679. No additional salary shall be allowed to any civil, military, or naval officer on account of his being employed on the Light-House Board, or being in any manner attached to the light-house service.

SEC. 4680. No member of the Light-House Board, inspector, light-keeper, or other person in any manner connected with the light-house service, shall be interested, either directly or indirectly, in any contract for labor, materials, or supplies for the light-house service, or in any patent, plan, or mode of construction or illumination, or in any article of supply for the light-house service.