

[PUBLIC LAW 173—79TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 341—1ST SESSION]

[H. R. 3771]

AN ACT

To provide for increasing the lending authority of the Export-Import Bank of Washington, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Export-Import Bank Act of 1945".

SEC. 2. (a) The Export-Import Bank of Washington, District of Columbia, a banking corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia as an agency of the United States, is continued as an agency of the United States, and in addition to existing charter powers, and without limitation as to the total amount of obligations thereto of any borrower, endorser, acceptor, obligor, or guarantor at any time outstanding, it is hereby authorized and empowered to make loans, to discount, rediscount or guarantee notes, drafts, bills of exchange, and other evidences of debt, or participate in the same, for the purpose of aiding in the financing and facilitating of exports and imports and the exchange of commodities between the United States or any of its Territories or insular possessions and any foreign country or the agencies or nationals thereof. The Bank is hereby authorized to use all its assets, including capital and net earnings therefrom, and to use all moneys which have been or may hereafter be allocated to or borrowed by it, in the exercise of its functions as such agency.

(b) It is the policy of the Congress that the Bank in the exercise of its functions should supplement and encourage and not compete with private capital, and that loans, so far as possible consistently with carrying out the purposes of subsection (a), shall generally be for specific purposes, and, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, offer reasonable assurance of repayment.

SEC. 3. (a) (1) The management of the Export-Import Bank of Washington shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of the Administrator of the Foreign Economic Administration, who shall serve as Chairman, the Secretary of State, and three persons appointed by the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary of State, to such extent as he deems it advisable, may designate to act for him in the discharge of his duties as a member of the Board of Directors any officer of the Department of State who shall have been appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) If the Foreign Economic Administration ceases to exist in the Office for Emergency Management in the Executive Office of the President, the President of the United States shall appoint by and with the advice and consent of the Senate another member of the Board of Directors. The member so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the existing terms of the other three appointed members, but suc-

cessors shall be appointed for terms of five years. After the Foreign Economic Administrator ceases to be a member of the Board of Directors the President of the United States shall, from time to time, designate one of the members of the Board to serve as Chairman.

(3) Of the five members of the Board, not more than three shall be members of any one political party. Each of the appointed directors shall devote his time not otherwise required by the business of the United States principally to the business of the Bank. Before entering upon his duties each of the directors so appointed and each officer of the Bank shall take an oath faithfully to discharge the duties of his office. The terms of the appointed directors shall be five years, except that the terms of the directors first appointed shall run from the date of appointment until June 30, 1950. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the directors so appointed, the person appointed to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the director whose place he is selected to fill. Each of the appointed directors shall receive a salary at the rate of \$12,000 per annum, unless he is an officer of the Bank, in which event he may elect to receive the salary of such officer. No director, officer, attorney, agent, or employee of the Bank shall in any manner, directly or indirectly, participate in the deliberation upon or the determination of any question affecting his personal interests, or the interests of any corporation, partnership, or association in which he is directly or indirectly personally interested.

(b) A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

(c) The Board of Directors shall adopt such bylaws as are necessary for the proper management and functioning of the Export-Import Bank of Washington, and may amend the same.

(d) There shall be an Advisory Board consisting of the Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of Washington, who shall serve as Chairman, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, which shall meet at the call of the Chairman. The Advisory Board may make such recommendations to the Board of Directors as it deems advisable, and the Board of Directors shall consult the Advisory Board on major questions of policy.

(e) Until October 31, 1945, or until at least two of the members of the Board of Directors to be appointed have qualified as such directors, whichever is the earlier, the affairs of the Bank shall continue to be managed by the existing Board of Trustees.

(f) The Export-Import Bank of Washington shall constitute an independent agency of the United States and neither the Bank nor any of its functions, powers, or duties shall be transferred to or consolidated with any other department, agency, or corporation of the Government unless the Congress shall otherwise by law provide.

SEC. 4. The Export-Import Bank of Washington shall have a capital stock of \$1,000,000,000 subscribed by the United States. Payment for \$1,000,000 of such capital stock shall be made by the surrender to the Bank for cancellation of the common stock heretofore issued by the Bank and purchased by the United States. Payment for \$174,000,000 of such capital stock shall be made by the surrender to the Bank for cancellation of the preferred stock heretofore issued by the Bank and purchased by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Payment for the \$825,000,000 balance of such capital stock shall be subject to

call at any time in whole or in part by the Board of Directors of the Bank. For the purpose of making payments of such balance, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to use as a public-debt transaction the proceeds of any securities hereafter issued under the Second Liberty Bond Act, as amended, and the purposes for which securities may be issued under that Act are extended to include such purpose. Payment under this section of the subscription of the United States to the Bank and repayments thereof shall be treated as public-debt transactions of the United States. Certificates evidencing stock ownership of the United States shall be issued by the Bank to the President of the United States, or to such other person or persons as he may designate from time to time, to the extent of the common and preferred stock surrendered and other payments made for the capital stock of the Bank under this section.

SEC. 5. (a) The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation the par value of the preferred stock upon its surrender to the Bank for cancellation. For the purpose of making such payments to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to use as a public-debt transaction the proceeds of any securities hereafter issued under the Second Liberty Bond Act, as amended, and the purposes for which securities may be issued under that Act are extended to include such purpose. Payment under this subsection to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation shall be treated as public-debt transactions of the United States.

(b) Any dividends on the preferred stock accumulated and unpaid to the date of its surrender for cancellation shall be paid to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation by the Bank.

SEC. 6. The Export-Import Bank of Washington is authorized to issue from time to time for purchase by the Secretary of the Treasury its notes, debentures, bonds, or other obligations; but the aggregate amount of such obligations outstanding at any one time shall not exceed two and one-half times the authorized capital stock of the Bank. Such obligations shall be redeemable at the option of the Bank before maturity in such manner as may be stipulated in such obligations and shall have such maturity and bear such rate of interest as may be determined by the Board of Directors of the Bank with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to purchase any obligations of the Bank issued hereunder and for such purpose the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to use as a public-debt transaction the proceeds of any securities hereafter issued under the Second Liberty Bond Act, as amended, and the purposes for which securities may be issued under that Act are extended to include such purpose. Payment under this section of the purchase price of such obligations of the Bank and repayments thereof by the Bank shall be treated as public-debt transactions of the United States.

SEC. 7. The Export-Import Bank of Washington shall not have outstanding at any one time loans and guaranties in an aggregate amount in excess of three and one-half times the authorized capital stock of the Bank.

SEC. 8. The provisions of the existing charter of the Bank relating to the term of its existence, to the management of its affairs, and to its capital stock are superseded by the provisions of this Act and

the Bank shall be exempt from compliance with any provisions of law relating to the amendment of certificates of incorporation or to the retirement or increase of stock of District of Columbia corporations and from the payment of any fee or tax to the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia determined upon the value or amount of capital stock of the Bank or any increase thereof.

SEC. 9. The Export-Import Bank of Washington shall transmit to the Congress semiannually a complete and detailed report of its operations. The report shall be as of the close of business on June 30 and December 31 of each year.

SEC. 10. Section 9 of the Act of January 31, 1935 (49 Stat. 4, ch. 2), as amended, is repealed.

SEC. 11. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Act of April 13, 1934 (48 Stat., ch. 112, p. 574), any person, including any individual, partnership, corporation, or association, may act for or participate with the Export-Import Bank of Washington in any operation or transaction, or may acquire any obligation issued in connection with any operation or transaction, engaged in by the Bank.

Approved July 31, 1945.