

Public Law 90-472

AN ACT

August 9, 1968
[H. R. 3136]

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make a study to determine the advantages and disadvantages of increased use of the metric system in the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Commerce is hereby authorized to conduct a program of investigation, research, and survey to determine the impact of increasing worldwide use of the metric system on the United States; to appraise the desirability and practicability of increasing the use of metric weights and measures in the United States; to study the feasibility of retaining and promoting by international use of dimensional and other engineering standards based on the customary measurement units of the United States; and to evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative courses of action which may be feasible for the United States.

SEC. 2. In carrying out the program described in the first section of this Act, the Secretary, among other things, shall—

(1) investigate and appraise the advantages and disadvantages to the United States in international trade and commerce, and in military and other areas of international relations, of the increased use of an internationally standardized system of weights and measures;

(2) appraise economic and military advantages and disadvantages of the increased use of the metric system in the United States or of the increased use of such system in specific fields and the impact of such increased use upon those affected;

(3) conduct extensive comparative studies of the systems of weights and measures used in educational, engineering, manufacturing, commercial, public, and scientific areas, and the relative advantages and disadvantages, and degree of standardization of each in its respective field;

(4) investigate and appraise the possible practical difficulties which might be encountered in accomplishing the increased use of the metric system of weights and measures generally or in specific fields or areas in the United States;

(5) permit appropriate participation by representatives of United States industry, science, engineering, and labor, and their associations, in the planning and conduct of the program authorized by the first section of this Act, and in the evaluation of the information secured under such program; and

(6) consult and cooperate with other government agencies, Federal, State, and local, and, to the extent practicable, with foreign governments and international organizations.

SEC. 3. In conducting the studies and developing the recommendations required in this Act, the Secretary shall give full consideration to the advantages, disadvantages, and problems associated with possible changes in either the system of measurement units or the related dimensional and engineering standards currently used in the United States, and specifically shall—

(1) investigate the extent to which substantial changes in the size, shape, and design of important industrial products would be necessary to realize the benefits which might result from general use of metric units of measurement in the United States;

(2) investigate the extent to which uniform and accepted engineering standards based on the metric system of measurement units are in use in each of the fields under study and compare the

Metric system.
Study.Investigation
and appraisal re-
quirements.Changes in
measurement
system, results.

extent to such use and the utility and degree of sophistication of such metric standards with those in use in the United States; and (3) recommend specific means of meeting the practical difficulties and costs in those areas of the economy where any recommended change in the system of measurement units and related dimensional and engineering standards would raise significant practical difficulties or entail significant costs of conversion.

Report to Congress.

SEC. 4. The Secretary shall submit to the Congress such interim reports as he deems desirable, and within three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, a full and complete report of the findings made under the program authorized by this Act, together with such recommendations as he considers to be appropriate and in the best interests of the United States.

Funds.

SEC. 5. From funds previously appropriated to the Department of Commerce, the Secretary is authorized to utilize such appropriated sums as are necessary, but not to exceed \$500,000, to carry out the purposes of this Act for the first year of the program.

Expiration date.

SEC. 6. This Act shall expire thirty days after the submission of the final report pursuant to section 3.

Approved August 9, 1968.

Public Law 90-473

AN ACT

August 10, 1968
[H. R. 18706]

Making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969, and for other purposes.

District of
Columbia Appro-
priation Act,
1969.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969, and for other purposes, namely:

FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

For payment to the following funds of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969: \$79,000,000 to the general fund; \$2,098,000 to the water fund; and \$1,184,000 to the sanitary sewage works fund, as authorized by the District of Columbia Revenue Act of 1947, as amended (D.C. Code, Sec. 47-2501(a); 81 Stat. 339), and the Act of May 18, 1954 (D.C. Code, Sec. 43-1541 and 1611).

Ante, p. 612.

LOANS TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY

For loans to the District of Columbia as authorized by the Act of May 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 101), and the Act of June 6, 1958, as amended (D.C. Code, Sec. 9-220(b); 81 Stat. 339), \$66,473,000, which together with balances of previous appropriations for this purpose, shall remain available until expended and be advanced upon request of the Commissioner to the following funds: general fund, \$57,223,000; highway fund, \$8,000,000; and water fund, \$1,250,000.

D.C. Code 43-
1601 note.