

THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES

## SECRETARY'S NOTICE

The Committee on Extension of Admiralty Jurisdiction (Messrs. Fort, Betts, Jr., Houston and Essery) reports that on June 19, 1948 the President signed the bill for the extension of admiralty jurisdiction (see Doc. No. 317, pp. 3197-99), and it became Public Law 695—80th Congress.

The text of the Act is as follows:

## AN ACT

For the extension of admiralty jurisdiction

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States shall extend to and include all cases of damage or injury, to person or property, caused by a vessel on navigable water, notwithstanding that such damage or injury be done or consummated on land.

In any such case suit may be brought in rem or in personam according to the principles of law and the rules of practice obtaining in cases where the injury or damage has been done and consummated on navigable water: *Provided*, That as to any suit against the United States for damage or injury done or consummated on land by a vessel on navigable waters, the Public Vessels Act or Suits in Admiralty Act, as appropriate, shall constitute the exclusive remedy for all causes of action arising after the date of the passage of this Act and for all causes of action where suit has not been hitherto filed under the Federal Tort Claims Act: *Provided further*, That no suit shall be filed against the United States until there shall have expired a period of six months after the claim has been presented in writing to the Federal agency owning or operating the vessel causing the injury or damage.

Approved June 19, 1948.

The text of the Act is also printed at 1948 A. M. C. 1060.

JOHN W. R. ZISGEN,  
Secretary.