

the furtherance of its functions. No powers or privileges hereby granted shall, however, interfere or conflict with established or vested rights.

#### TRANSFER OF ASSETS

SEC. 17. The corporation may acquire the assets of the Sea Cadet Corps of America, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Washington, upon discharging or satisfactorily providing for the payment and discharge of all of the liability of such corporation and upon complying with all laws of the State of Washington applicable thereto.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

SEC. 18. The corporation shall report annually to the Secretary of the Navy concerning its proceedings and activities for the preceding calendar years. The Secretary of the Navy shall communicate to Congress the whole of such reports, or such portion thereof as he shall see fit.

Report to Congress.

#### RESERVATION OF RIGHT TO AMEND OR REPEAL CHAPTER

SEC. 19. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this title is expressly reserved.

Approved September 10, 1962.

### Public Law 87-656

#### AN ACT

September 10, 1962  
[S. 2321]

To encourage and aid the development of reconstructive medicine and surgery and the development of medico-surgical research by authorizing the licensing of tissue banks in the District of Columbia, by facilitating antemortem and postmortem donations of human tissue for tissue bank purposes, and for other purposes.

District of Columbia Tissue Bank Act.

*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 "District of Columbia Tissue Bank Act".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PURPOSE.—Because of the rapid medical progress in the field of tissue preservation, tissue transplantation, and tissue culture, and because it is in the public interest to aid the development of this field of medicine, it is the policy and purpose of Congress in enacting this Act to encourage and aid the development of reconstructive medicine and surgery and the development of medico-surgical research by providing for the licensing and regulation of tissue banks, and by facilitating antemortem and postmortem authorizations for donations of tissue.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act, except where the context indicates a different meaning—

"Commissioners" means the Commissioners of the District of Columbia or their designated agent.

"Donor" means any person who, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, bequeaths or donates his tissue for removal after death in furtherance of the purposes of this Act, and also means any deceased person whose tissue is donated or disposed of for the purposes of this Act.

"Tissue" means any portion of the body of a dead human.

"Tissue bank" means a facility for procuring, removing, and disposing of portions of bodies of dead humans for the purposes of reconstructive medicine and surgery, and research and teaching in reconstructive medicine and surgery.

SEC. 4. TISSUE BANK LICENSES AND REGULATIONS.—(a) No person shall operate any tissue bank in the District of Columbia without a valid license issued pursuant to this Act. No such license shall be issued except to persons duly licensed or duly registered as physicians under the Healing Arts Practice Act of the District of Columbia (45 Stat. 1326; title 2, ch. 1, D.C. Code, 1951 ed.) or to persons holding valid licenses to operate and maintain hospitals for humans pursuant to the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the establishment and maintenance of private hospitals and asylums in the District of Columbia", approved April 20, 1908 (35 Stat. 64; D.C. Code, 1951 ed., title 32, ch. 3).

(b) The Commissioners are authorized, after public hearing, to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations prescribing, without limitation, (1) the terms and conditions under which a tissue bank license may be issued and renewed; (2) the fees to be paid for the issuance and renewal of such licenses; (3) the duration of such licenses; (4) the grounds for suspension and revocation of such licenses; (5) the operation of tissue banks; (6) the conditions under which tissue may be processed, preserved, stored, and transported; and (7) the making, keeping, and disposition of records by tissue banks or by other persons processing, preserving, storing, or transporting tissue.

Rules and regulations.

(c) The Commissioners may, after notice and hearing, deny, suspend, or revoke any tissue bank license issued or applied for pursuant to this Act.

(d) Any person aggrieved by any final decision or final order of the Commissioners denying, suspending, or revoking any tissue bank license or renewal thereof, issued or applied for under this Act, may obtain a review of such decision or order in the municipal court of appeals for the District of Columbia, and may seek review by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia of any judgment of the municipal court of appeals entered pursuant to its review of any such decision or order, all in accordance with subsection (f) of section 7 of the Act approved April 1, 1942, as added by the Act approved August 31, 1954 (68 Stat. 1048; sec. 11-772, D.C. Code, 1951 ed.).

(e) Except with respect to the provisions as to licensing, the provisions of this Act, and the regulations made pursuant thereto, shall apply to Federal agencies situated in the District of Columbia, and to District of Columbia agencies.

SEC. 5. PENALTIES.—Any person violating any provision of this Act, or any regulation made pursuant to this Act, shall be fined not more than \$300, or be imprisoned for not more than ninety days. Prosecution for violations of this Act and regulations made pursuant thereto shall be brought in the name of the District of Columbia.

SEC. 6. DONATION OF TISSUE.—(a) Any person who, under the law of the District of Columbia, has capacity to make a valid will, may by will, codicil, or any written statement donate his tissue for the purposes of this Act. Any person who, in accordance with this Act, donates his tissue may, but shall not be required to, designate the purpose for which his tissue is to be used. Any physician or hospital validly operating a tissue bank shall have full authority to take the tissue so donated and use the same for the purposes enumerated in this Act.

(b) No particular words shall be required for such person to donate his tissue; but any will, codicil, or written statement shall be liberally construed to effectuate the intent and purpose of the person desiring to donate his tissue for any purpose authorized by this Act. If, pursuant to this section or section 7, a person donates tissue by a written statement other than by a will or codicil, such statement shall be signed by him and be witnessed by two persons of legal age.

(c) A provision in any will, codicil, or written statement which donates tissue as provided by this Act shall become effective immediately upon the death of the testator or donor, and shall constitute the authority for any physician or hospital validly operating a tissue bank to remove said tissue.

SEC. 7. TISSUE DONATIONS BY THOSE HAVING RIGHT TO BODY.—Any person having the right to a body for the purpose of burial may by a written statement donate any tissue from such body to any tissue bank, and in such written statement may designate the purpose or purposes for which such tissue is to be used. Such writing shall constitute full authority for the tissue bank to use such tissue for the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 8. PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BODY.—For the purposes of this Act, the order of priority in which persons are entitled to the body for burial and who may donate tissue therefrom shall be the following:

(a) The surviving spouse.

(b) If there be no surviving spouse, or if the surviving spouse is incompetent, unavailable, or does not claim the body for burial, then an adult child, a parent, an adult brother, or an adult sister of the decedent. Any one of such persons may make such donation: *Provided*, That tissue shall not be removed pursuant to a donation made by any one of such persons designated in this subsection if, before such tissue is removed, any one of such persons shall, in writing, notify the tissue bank which is to remove the tissue that he objects to such removal.

(c) Any person whom the deceased during his lifetime designated by written instrument to take charge of his body for burial.

(d) The person or agency who or which assumes custody of the body for burial, in any case in which the person designated as provided in paragraph (c) or all of the persons mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section have failed to claim the body.

SEC. 9. OFFICE OF THE CORONER.—(a) The Commissioners are authorized to appoint such number of licensed physicians as they deem appropriate to perform such of the functions of the Coroner of the District of Columbia as the Commissioners shall prescribe. The Commissioners are authorized to fix the compensation of such physicians at a rate or rates not in excess of the per diem equivalent of the maximum rate for grade 18 of the General Schedule of the Classification Act of 1949, as amended. The Commissioners are further authorized, in their discretion, to accept the services of such physicians without compensation.

(b) The Coroner of the District of Columbia may, in his discretion, allow tissue to be removed from any dead human body in his custody or under his jurisdiction: *Provided*, That such tissue removal shall not interfere with other functions of the Office of the Coroner: *Provided further*, That the person who, in accordance with section 8 of this Act, is entitled to the body for burial, shall first authorize such tissue removal.

SEC. 10. MOVEMENT AND DISPOSITION OF TISSUE BY TISSUE BANKS.—Sections 675 and 676 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a code of laws for the District of Columbia", approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1296), as amended by the first section of the Act approved September 22, 1950 (64 Stat. 904; sec. 27-119a, D.C. Code, 1951 ed.), are amended (a) by striking, in the first sentence of such sections, the

words "remove, transport,"; (b) by inserting immediately after "designate," in such first sentence the following: "or to remove from place to place, or transport, the dead body, or any part thereof, of a human being, except"; and (c) by inserting immediately after such first sentence of such sections the following: "Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding sentence, the Commissioners may, in their discretion, by regulation authorize (a) tissue banks operating pursuant to the District of Columbia Tissue Bank Act or (b) other persons subject to regulations made pursuant to such Act, or both, to remove, transport, and dispose of tissue taken from such dead body without such permit."

SEC. 11. REMOVAL OF TISSUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEATH.—Section 683 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a code of laws for the District of Columbia", approved March 3, 1901 (31 U.S.C. 1298; sec. 27-125, D.C. Code, 1951 ed.), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: "Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, whenever any person is pronounced dead by a physician duly licensed or duly registered under the Healing Arts Practice Act of the District of Columbia (45 Stat. 1326; title 2, ch. 1, D.C. Code, 1951 ed.), tissue donated in accordance with the provisions of the District of Columbia Tissue Bank Act may be removed by or under the supervision of a person licensed under the authority of section 4 of such Act for preservation in a tissue bank operating pursuant to such Act, without regard for any time limitation, or for any permit or certificate requirement, established by this section: *Provided*, That with respect to a dead human body in the custody of the Coroner or under his jurisdiction, no tissue shall be removed therefrom for preservation except with the specific approval of the Coroner in each case."

31 Stat. 1298.

SEC. 12. EXEMPTION OF LICENSED UNDERTAKERS FROM ACT.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed (1) to prohibit undertakers licensed pursuant to paragraph 44A of section 7 of the Act entitled "An Act making appropriations to provide for the expenses of the government of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, and for other purposes", approved July 1, 1902, as amended (61 Stat. 711; sec. 47-2344a, D.C. Code, 1951 ed.), from discharging their duties, or (2) to prohibit or affect in any way the authority, duties, rights, or obligations vested, imposed, or granted by the Act entitled "An Act for the promotion of anatomical science and to prevent the desecration of graves in the District of Columbia", approved April 29, 1902 (32 Stat. 173, D.C. Code, 1951 ed., title 2, ch. 2).

SEC. 13. COORDINATION OF ACT WITH REORGANIZATION PLAN NO. 5.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to affect the authority vested in the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia by Reorganization Plan Numbered 5 of 1952 (66 Stat. 824). The performance of any function vested by this Act in the Board of Commissioners or in any office or agency under the jurisdiction and control of said Board of Commissioners may be delegated by said Board of Commissioners in accordance with section 3 of such plan.

D. C. Code, title  
1 app.

SEC. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, except section 4, shall take effect upon approval. Section 4 shall take effect sixty days after the Commissioners have initially promulgated regulations pursuant to such section.

Approved September 10, 1962.