This is an unofficial transcription of a 1934 amendment of the 1898 Act, prepared by Robert J. Pfister for ease of reading and copying/pasting. The authoritative text is the United States Statutes at Large.

Seventy-Third Congress, Session II
Chapter 424 — 48 Stat. 911 — Public, No. 296 (H.R. 5884)
June 7, 1934

AN ACT *To amend an Act entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States", approved July 1, 1898, and Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act of July 1, 1898, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States", as amended by the Acts of February 5, 1903, June 15, 1906, June 25, 1910, March 2, 1917, January 7, 1922, May 27, 1926, February 11, 1932, and March 3, 1933, be, and it is hereby, amended by adding to chapter VIII, entitled "Provisions for the relief of debtors", two new sections to read as follows:

"SEC. 77A. ADDITIONAL JURISDICTION.—In addition to the jurisdiction exercised in voluntary and involuntary proceedings to adjudge persons bankrupt, courts of bankruptcy shall exercise original jurisdiction in proceedings for the relief of debtors, as provided in section 77B of this Act.

"SEC. 77B. CORPORATE REORGANIZATIONS.—(a) Any corporation which could become a bankrupt under section 4 of this Act, and any railroad or other transportation corporation, except a railroad corporation authorized to file a petition or answer under the provisions of section 77 of this Act, and except as hereinafter provided, may file an original petition, or, before adjudication in an involuntary proceeding, an answer, or in any proceeding pending in bankruptcy, whether filed before or after this section becomes effective, provided the present operations of such corporation do not exclude it hereunder, and whether or not the corporation has been

adjudicated a bankrupt, a petition stating the requisite jurisdictional facts under this section; the nature of the business of the debtor; in brief description, the assets, liabilities, capital stock, and financial condition of the debtor; if a prior proceeding is pending, the name of the court in which it is pending and the nature of such proceeding; facts showing the need for relief under this section; and that the corporation is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and that it desires to effect a plan of reorganization. The petition shall be filed with the court in whose territorial jurisdiction the corporation, during the preceding six months or the greater portion thereof, has had its principal place of business or its principal assets, or in any territorial jurisdiction in the State in which it was incorporated. The court shall upon petition transfer such proceedings to the territorial jurisdiction where the interests of all the parties will be best subserved. The petition or answer shall be accompanied by payment to the clerk of a filing fee of $100, which shall be in addition to the fees required to be collected by the clerk under other sections of this Act. Upon the filing of such a petition or answer the judge shall enter an order either approving it as properly filed under this section if satisfied that such petition or answer complies with this section and has been filed in good faith, or dismissing it. If the petition or answer is so approved, an order of adjudication in bankruptcy shall not be entered and the court in which such order approving the petition or answer is entered shall, during the pendency of the proceedings under this section, have exclusive jurisdiction of the debtor and its property wherever located for the purposes of this section, and shall have and may exercise all the powers, not inconsistent with this section, which a Federal court would have had it appointed a receiver in equity of the property of the debtor by reason of its inability to pay its debts as they mature. The corporation shall be referred to in the proceedings as a 'debtor.' Any corporation the majority of the capital stock of which having power to vote for the election of directors is owned, either directly or indirectly through an intervening medium, by any debtor, or

substantially all of whose properties are operated by such debtor under lease or operating agreement, may file, with the court in which such debtor had filed its petition or answer, and in the same proceeding, a petition stating that it is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and that it desires to effect a plan of reorganization in connection with, or as a part of, the plan of reorganization of such other debtor; and thereupon such court, if it approves such petition, shall have the same jurisdiction with respect to such corporation, its property, and its creditors and stockholders as the court has with respect to such other debtor. Three or more creditors who have provable claims against any corporation which amount in the aggregate, in excess of the value of securities held by them, if any, to $1,000 or over may, if such corporation has not filed a petition or answer under this section, file with the court in which such corporation might file a petition under this section, a petition stating that such corporation is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and, if a prior proceeding in bankruptcy or equity receivership is not pending, that it has committed an act of bankruptcy within four months, that such creditors propose that it shall effect a reorganization; and such corporation shall, within ten days after the service of a copy of such petition upon it, answer such petition. If such answer shall admit (a) the jurisdiction of the court, and (b) the material allegations of the petition, the court shall enter an order approving the petition as properly filed under this section if satisfied that it complies with this section and has been filed in good faith, or dismiss it if not so satisfied. If such answer shall deny any material allegation of the petition, the judge shall determine summarily the issues presented by the pleadings, without the intervention of a jury, and if the material allegations of the petition are sustained by the proofs and the court is satisfied that the petition complies with this section and has been filed in good faith it shall approve the petition; otherwise the court shall dismiss the petition; and if any such petition shall be so approved, the proceedings thereon shall continue with like effect as if the

corporation had itself filed a petition or answer under this section. In case any such petition or answer or proceedings shall be dismissed in the manner provided in this subdivision (a) or in subdivision (c), clause (8), of this section, the same shall not constitute an act of bankruptcy or an admission of insolvency or be admissible in evidence, without the consent of the debtor, in any proceedings then or thereafter pending or commenced under this Act or in any Federal or State court. If three or more creditors who have provable claims which amount in the aggregate in excess of the value of securities held by them, if any, to $1,000 or over, or if stockholders holding 5 per centum in number of all shares of stock of any class of the debtor outstanding shall, prior to the hearing provided for in subdivision (c), clause (1), of this section appear and controvert the facts alleged in the petition or answer, the judge shall determine as soon as may be the issues presented by the pleadings, without the intervention of a jury, and unless the material allegations of the petition or answer are sustained by the proofs, the proceedings shall be dismissed.

"(b) A plan of reorganization within the meaning of this section (1) shall include provisions modifying or altering the rights of creditors generally, or of any class of them, secured or unsecured, either through the issuance of new securities of any character or otherwise; (2) may include provisions modifying or altering the rights of stockholders generally, or of any class of them, either through the issuance of new securities of any character or otherwise; (3) shall provide for the payment in cash of all costs of administration and other allowances made by the court except that compensation or reimbursement provided for in subdivision (c), clause (9), of this section, may be paid in securities provided for in the plan if those entitled thereto will accept such payment and the court finds such compensation reasonable; (4) shall provide in respect of each class of stockholders, of which less than a majority shall accept such plan (unless the judge shall determine either that the debtor is insolvent, or that the interest of such class of stockholders will not be affected adversely by the

plan), adequate protection for the realization by them of the value of their equity, if any, in the property of the debtor dealt with by the plan, either, as provided in the plan, (a) by a sale of the property at not less than a fair upset price, or (b) by appraisal and payment in cash of the value either of their stock, or at the objecting stockholders' election, of the securities allotted to such stockholders under the plan, if any shall be so allotted, or (c) by such methods as will do substantial justice to such stockholders under and consistent with the circumstances of the particular case; (5) shall provide in respect of each class of creditors of which less than two thirds in amount shall accept such plan (unless the claims of such class of creditors will not be affected by the plan, or the plan makes provision for the payment of their claims in cash in full), provide adequate protection for the realization by them of the value of their interests, claims, or liens, if the property affected by such interests, claims, or liens is dealt with by the plan, either as provided in the plan (a) by the transfer or sale of such property subject to such interests, claims, or liens, or by the retention of such property by the debtor subject to such interests, claims, or liens, or (b) by a sale free of such interests, claims, or liens at not less than a fair upset price and the transfer of such interests, claims, or liens to the proceeds of such sale; or (c) by appraisal and payment either in cash of the value either of such interests, claims, or liens, or, at the objecting creditors' election, of the securities allotted to such interests, claims, or liens under the plan, if any shall be so allotted; or (d) by such method as will in the opinion of the judge, under and consistent with the circumstances of the particular case, equitably and fairly provide such protection; (6) may reject contracts of the debtor which are executory in whole or in part, including unexpired leases except contracts in the public authority; (7) shall, in case any creditor or stockholder or class thereof shall not be affected by the plan, specify the creditor or stockholder or class or classes thereof not affected and contain such provisions with respect thereto as may be appropriate, and in case any controversy shall arise as to whether any creditor or

stockholder or class thereof shall or shall not be affected, the issue shall be determined by the judge after hearing upon notice to the parties interested; (8) shall specify what claims, if any, are to be paid in cash in full; (9) shall provide adequate means for the execution of the plan, which may include the transfer of all or any part of the property of the debtor to another corporation or to other corporations, or the consolidation of the properties of the debtor with those of another corporation, or the merger or consolidation of the debtor into or with another corporation or corporations, or the retention of the property by the debtor, the distribution of assets among creditors or any class thereof, the satisfaction or modification of liens, indentures, or other similar instruments, the curing or waiver of defaults, extension of maturity dates of outstanding securities, the change in interest rates and other terms of such securities, the amendment of the charter of the debtor, and the issuance of securities of either the debtor or any such corporation or corporations, for cash, or in exchange for existing securities, or in satisfaction of claims or rights, or for other appropriate purposes; (10) may deal with all or any part of the property of the debtor and may include any other appropriate provisions not inconsistent with this section. No creditor or stockholder shall, for the purposes of this section be deemed to be affected by any plan of reorganization unless the same shall affect his interests materially and adversely. The term 'securities' shall include evidences of indebtedness, either secured or unsecured, stock, certificates of beneficial interest therein, and certificates of beneficial interest in property. The term 'stockholders' shall include the holders of voting trust certificates. The term 'creditors' shall include for all purposes of this section and of the reorganization plan, its acceptance and confirmation, all holders of claims of whatever character against the debtor or its property, including claims under executory contracts, whether or not such claims would otherwise constitute provable claims under this Act. The term 'claims' includes debts, securities, other than stock, liens, or other interests of whatever character. For all purposes of

this section unsecured claims which would have been entitled to priority over existing mortgages if a receiver in equity of the property of the debtor had been appointed by a Federal court on the day of the approval of the petition or answer under this section, shall be entitled to such priority, and the holders of such claims, and of other claims, if any, of equal rank, shall be treated as a separate class of creditors. In case an executory contract or unexpired lease of real estate shall be rejected pursuant to direction of the judge given in a proceeding instituted under this section, or shall have been rejected by a trustee or receiver in bankruptcy or receiver in equity, in a proceeding pending prior to the institution of a proceeding under this section any person injured by such rejection shall, for all purposes of this section and of the reorganization plan, its acceptance and confirmation, be deemed to be a creditor. The claim of a landlord for injury resulting from the rejection of an unexpired lease of real estate or for damages or indemnity under a covenant contained in such lease shall be treated as a claim ranking on a parity with debts which would be provable under section 63(a) of this Act, but shall be limited to an amount not to exceed the rent, without acceleration, reserved by said lease for the three years next succeeding the date of surrender of the premises to the landlord or the date of reentry of the landlord, whichever first occurs, whether before or after the filing of the petition, plus unpaid rent accrued up to such date of surrender or reentry: *Provided,* That the court shall scrutinize the circumstances of an assignment of future rent claims and the amount of the consideration paid for such assignment in determining the amount of damages allowed assignee hereunder. In the case of secured claims entitled to the provisions of clause (5) of this subdivision (b), the value of the security shall be determined in the manner provided in section 57, clause (h) of this Act, and if the amount of such value shall be less than the amount of the claim, the excess may be classified as an unsecured claim. The provisions of section 60 of this Act shall apply to claims against the debtor in a proceeding under this section. For all purposes of

this section any creditor may act in person, by an attorney at law, or by a duly authorized agent or committee: *Provided,* That the judge shall scrutinize and may disregard any limitations or provisions of any depositary agreements, trust indentures, committee or other authorizations affecting any creditor acting under this section and may enforce an accounting thereunder or restrain the exercise of any power which he finds to be unfair or not consistent with public policy and may limit any claims filed by such committee member or agent, to the actual consideration paid therefor. The running of all periods of time prescribed by any other provisions of this Act, and by all statutes of limitations, shall be suspended during the pendency of a proceeding under this section.

"(c) Upon approving the petition or answer or at any time thereafter, the judge, in addition to the jurisdiction and powers elsewhere in this section conferred upon him, (1) may, after hearing upon notice to the debtor and to such others as the judge may determine temporarily continue the debtor in possession or appoint a trustee or trustees of the debtor's estate, and shall require the debtor, or such trustee or trustees, if appointed, to give such notice as the order may direct to creditors and stockholders and to cause publication thereof to be made at least once a week for two successive weeks of a hearing to be held within thirty days after such appointment, or, if no such appointment, within thirty days after the approval of the petition or answer, at which hearing or any adjournment thereof, or at any subsequent hearing after notice, the judge may make permanent any such appointment, or terminate it and restore the debtor to possession, or, if no trustee has been appointed, may appoint a trustee or trustees, and may remove any such trustee or trustees and continue the debtor in possession or appoint a substitute trustee or trustees and may appoint an additional trustee or trustees; (2) shall fix the amount of the bond of every such trustee, and every such trustee, upon filing such bond, shall have all the title and shall exercise, subject to the control of the judge and consistently with the provisions of this section,

all the powers of a trustee appointed pursuant to section 44 of this Act, and if authorized by the judge, the same powers as those exercised by a receiver in equity to the extent consistent with this section, and, subject to the authorization and control of the judge, the power to operate the business of the debtor during such period, fixed or indefinite, as the judge may from time to time prescribe; (3) may, for cause shown, authorize the debtor or the trustee or trustees, if appointed, to issue certificates for cash, property, or other consideration approved by the judge for such lawful purposes, and upon such terms and conditions and with such security and such priority in payments over existing obligations, secured or unsecured, as may be lawful in the particular case; (4) shall require the debtor, or the trustee or trustees if appointed, at such time or times as the judge may direct, and in lieu of the schedules required by section 7 of this Act, to file such schedules and submit such other information as may be necessary to disclose the conduct of the debtor's affairs and the fairness of any proposed plan; and may direct the debtor, or the trustee or trustees if appointed, to prepare (a) a list of all known bondholders and creditors of, or claimants against, the debtor or its property, and the amounts and character of their debts, claims, and securities, and the last known post-office address or place of business of each creditor or claimant, and (b) a list of the stockholders of each class of the debtor, with the last known post-office address or place of business of each, which lists shall be open to the inspection of any creditor or stockholder of the debtor, during reasonable business hours, upon application to the debtor, or to the trustee or trustees, if appointed, and the contents of such lists shall not constitute admissions by the debtor or the trustees in a proceeding under this section or otherwise; (5) may direct the rejection of contracts of the debtor executory in whole or in part; (6) shall determine a reasonable time within which the claims and interests of creditors and stockholders may be filed or evidenced and after which no such claim or interest may participate in any plan, except on order for cause shown, the manner

in which such claims and interests may be filed or evidenced and allowed, and, for the purposes of the plan and its acceptance, the division of creditors and stockholders into classes according to the nature of their respective claims and interests; and may, for the purposes of such classification, classify as an unsecured claim, the amount of any secured claim in excess of the value of the security therefor. such value to be determined in accordance with the provisions of section 57, clause (h), of this Act; (7) shall cause reasonable notice of such determination and of all hearings for the consideration of any proposed plan, or of the dismissal of the proceedings, or the liquidation of the estate, or the allowance of fees or expenses, to be given creditors and stockholders by publication or otherwise; (8) if a plan of reorganization is not proposed or accepted within such reasonable period as the judge may fix, or, if proposed and accepted, is not confirmed, may, after hearing, whether the proceeding be voluntary or involuntary, either extend such period or dismiss the proceeding under this section or, except in the case of a railroad or other public utility or of a debtor which has not been found by the judge to be insolvent, direct the estate to be liquidated, or direct the trustee or trustees to liquidate the estate, appointing a trustee or trustees if none shall previously have been appointed, as the interests of the creditors and stockholders may equitably require; (9) may allow a reasonable compensation for the services rendered and reimbursement for the actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding and the plan by officers, parties in interest, depositaries, reorganization managers and committees or other representatives of creditors or stockholders, and the attorneys or agents of any of the foregoing and of the debtor, but appeals from orders fixing such allowances may be taken to the Circuit Court of Appeals independently of other appeals in the proceeding and shall be heard summarily; (10) in addition to the provisions of section 11 of this Act for the staying of pending suits against the debtor, may enjoin or stay the commencement or continuation of suits against the debtor until after final decree;

and may, upon notice and for cause shown, enjoin or stay the commencement or continuance of any judicial proceeding to enforce any lien upon the estate until after final decree; and (11) may refer any matters to a special master, who may be one of the referees in bankruptcy, for consideration and report, either generally or upon specified issues, and allow such master a reasonable compensation and reimbursement for his services and actual and necessary expenses. The debtor shall have the right to be heard on all questions. Any creditor or stockholder shall have the right to be heard on the question of the permanent appointment of any trustee or trustees, and on the proposed confirmation of any reorganization plan, and upon filing a petition for leave to intervene, on such other questions arising in the proceeding as the judge shall determine. In case a trustee is not appointed, the debtor shall continue in the possession of its property, and, if authorized by the judge, shall operate the business thereof during such period, fixed or indefinite, as the judge may from time to time prescribe, and shall have all the title to and shall exercise, consistently with the provisions of this section, all the powers of a trustee appointed pursuant to this section, subject at all times to the control of the judge, and to such limitations, restrictions, terms, and conditions as the judge may from time to time impose and prescribe. While the debtor is in possession (a) its officers shall be entitled to receive only such reasonable compensation as the judge shall from time to time approve, and (b) no person shall be elected or appointed to any office, to fill a vacancy or otherwise, without the prior approval of the judge.

"(d) A plan of reorganization which has been approved by creditors of the debtor, whose claims would be affected by the plan, being not less than 25 per centum in amount of any class of creditors, and not less than 10 per centum in amount of all the claims against the debtor, or. if the debtor is not found by the judge to be insolvent, but is found unable to meet its debts as they mature, by stockholders whose interests would be affected by the plan, provided said amount is not less than 10 per centum of

any class of stock outstanding and not less than 5 per centum of the total number of shares of all classes of stock outstanding, may be proposed by any creditor or by any stockholder, or without such approval by the debtor, at a hearing duly noticed for its consideration or for the consideration of any other plan of reorganization similarly proposed.

(e) (1) A plan of reorganization shall not be confirmed until it has been accepted in writing, whether before or after the filing of the petition or answer under this section, and such acceptance shall have been filed in the proceeding by or on behalf of creditors holding two thirds in amount of the claims of each class whose claims have been allowed and would be affected by the plan and by or on behalf of stockholders of the debtor holding a majority of the stock of each class: *Provided, however,* That such acceptance shall not be requisite to the confirmation of the plan by any creditor or class of creditors (a) whose claims are not affected by the plan, or (b) if the plan makes provision for the payment of their claims in cash in full, or (c) if provision is made in the plan for the protection of the interests, claims, or liens of such creditor or class of creditors in the manner provided in subdivision (b), clause (5), of this section: *And provided further,* That such acceptance shall not be requisite to the confirmation of the plan by any stockholder or class of stockholders (1) if the judge shall have determined either that the debtor is insolvent, or that the interests of such stockholder or stockholders will not be affected by the plan, or (2) if provision is made in the plan for the protection of the interests of such stockholder or class of stockholders in the manner provided in subdivision (b), clause (4), of this section. With such acceptance there shall be set forth, verified in such manner as the judge shall require, what, if any, contracts of the debtor are executory in whole or in part, and what unexpired leases have been rejected and surrendered. With such acceptance there shall be filed a statement, verified in such manner as the judge shall require, showing what, if any, claims and shares of stock have been purchased or transferred by those accepting the

plan after the commencement or in contemplation of the proceeding, and the circumstances of such purchase or transfer: *Provided, however,* That if the judge is satisfied that by reason of the number of securities outstanding and the extent of the public dealing therein the preparation of such a statement would be impractical, he may direct that it be not filed. If the United States of America is a creditor or stockholder, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to accept or reject a plan in respect of the interests or claims of the United States.

"(2) In case the debtor is a utility subject to the jurisdiction of a regulatory commission or commissions or other regulatory authority or authorities, created by the laws of the State or States in which the properties of the debtor are operated, a plan of reorganization shall not be confirmed until (a) it shall be submitted to each such commission or authority having regulatory jurisdiction over the debtor, (b) an opportunity shall be afforded each such commission or authority to suggest amendments or objections to the plan, and (c) the judge shall consider such amendments or objections at a hearing at which each such commission or authority may be heard. In case the debtor is a public utility corporation wholly intrastate in character no court shall approve any plan of reorganization if the regulatory commission of such State having jurisdiction over such public utility certifies that the public interest is affected by said plan, unless said regulatory commission shall first approve of said plan as to the public interest therein and the fairness thereof. If said regulatory commission shall not within thirty days or such additional period as the court may prescribe after the submission of a plan to it file said certificate it shall be deemed that the public interest is not affected by said plan.

"(f) After hearing such objections as may be made to the plan, the judge shall confirm the plan if satisfied that (1) it is fair and equitable and does not discriminate unfairly in favor of any class of creditors or stockholders, and is feasible; (2) it complies with the

provisions of subdivision (b) of this section; (3) it has been accepted as required by the provisions of subdivision (e), clause (1) of this section; (4) the provisions of subdivision (e), clause (2), of this section have been complied with; (5) all amounts to be paid by the debtor or by any corporation or corporations acquiring the debtor's assets, and all amounts to be paid to committees or reorganization managers, whether or not by the debtor or any such corporation for services or expenses incident to the reorganization, have been fully disclosed and are reasonable, or are to be subject to the approval of the judge; (6) the offer of the plan and its acceptance are in good faith and have not been made or procured by any means or promises forbidden by this Act; and (7) the debtor, and every other corporation, issuing securities or acquiring property under the plan, is authorized by its charter or by applicable State or Federal laws, upon confirmation of the plan, to take all action necessary to carry out the plan, and that, in case the debtor is a utility corporation subject to the jurisdiction of a regulatory commission or commissions or other regulatory authority or authorities, created by the laws of the State or States in which the properties of the debtor are operated, all authorizations, approvals, or consents of each such commission or authority required by the laws of such State or States, have been obtained. Before or after a plan is confirmed, changes and modifications may be proposed therein by any party in interest and may be made with the approval of the judge after hearing upon notice to creditors and stockholders, subject to the right of any creditor or stockholder who shall previously have accepted the plan to withdraw his acceptance, within a period to be fixed by the judge and after such notice as the judge may direct, if, in the opinion of the judge, the change or modification will be materially adverse to the interest of such creditor or stockholder, and if any creditor or stockholder having such right of withdrawal shall not withdraw within such period, he shall be deemed to have accepted the plan as changed or modified: *Provided, however,* That the plan as changed or modified shall comply with the provisions of subdivision (b) of this

section and shall have been or shall thereafter be accepted as required by the provisions of subdivision (e), clause (1), of this section, including acceptances by reason of failure to withdraw as hereinbefore provided, and the provisions of this subdivision (f), and of subdivision (e), clause (2), of this section, shall have been complied with in respect thereof. Upon confirmation of the plan by the judge, the debtor and other corporation or corporations organized or to be organized for the purpose of carrying out the plan, shall have full power and authority to put into effect and carry out the plan and the orders of the judge relative thereto. The provisions of subdivisions 1, 2, and 3 of schedule A of title VIII of the Revenue Act of 1926, as amended by sections 721, 722, and 723 of the Revenue Act of 1932 and the provisions of sections 724 and 725 of the Revenue Act of 1932 shall not apply to the issuance, transfers, or exchanges of securities or making or delivery of conveyances to make effective any plan of reorganization confirmed under the provisions of this section.

"(g) Upon such confirmation the provisions of the plan and of the order of confirmation shall be binding upon (1) the debtor, (2) all stockholders thereof, including those who have not, as well as those who have, accepted it, and (3) all creditors, secured or unsecured, whether or not affected by the plan, and whether or not their claims shall have been filed, and, if filed, whether or not approved, including creditors who have not, as well as those who have, accepted it.

"(h) Upon final confirmation of the plan, the debtor and other corporation or corporations organized or to be organized for the purpose of carrying out the plan, shall have full power and authority to, and shall put into effect and carry out the plan and the orders of the judge relative thereto, under and subject to the supervision and control of the judge, and the property dealt with by the plan, when transferred and conveyed by the trustee or trustees to the debtor or the other corporation or

corporations provided for by the plan, or, if no trustee has been appointed, when retained by the debtor pursuant to the plan or transferred by it to the other corporation or corporations provided for by the plan, shall be free and clear of all claims of the debtor, its stockholders and creditors, except such as may consistently with the provisions of the plan be reserved in the order confirming the plan or directing such transfer and conveyance or retention, and the court may direct the trustee or trustees, or if there be no trustee, the debtor and any mortgagee, the trustee of any obligation of the debtor, and all other proper and necessary parties, to make any such transfer or conveyance, and may direct the debtor to join in any such transfer or conveyance made by the trustee or trustees. Upon the termination of the proceedings a final decree shall be entered discharging the trustee or trustees, if any, making such provisions as may be equitable, by way of injunction or otherwise, and closing the case. Such final decree shall discharge the debtor from its debts and liabilities, and shall terminate and end all rights and interests of its stockholders, except as provided in the plan or as may be reserved as aforesaid. All securities issued pursuant to any plan of reorganization confirmed by the court in accordance with the provisions of this section, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any securities issued pursuant to such plan for the purpose of raising money for working capital and other purposes of such plan and securities issued by the debtor or by the trustee or trustees pursuant to subdivision (c), clause (3), of this section, and all certificates of deposit representing securities of or claims against the debtor which it is proposed to deal with under any such plan, shall be exempt from all the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, approved May 27, 1933, except the provisions of subdivision (2) of section 12, and section 17 thereof, and except the provisions of section 24 thereof as applied to any willful violation of said section 17.

"(i) If a receiver or trustee of all or any part of the property of a corporation has been appointed by a Federal, State, or Territorial court, whether before or after this

amendatory Act takes effect a petition or answer may be filed under this section at any time thereafter by the corporation, or its creditors as provided in subdivision (a) of this section and if such petition or answer is approved, the trustee or trustees appointed under this section, or the debtor if no trustee is appointed, shall be entitled forthwith to possession of and vested with title to such property, and the judge shall make such orders as he may deem equitable for the protection of obligations incurred by the receiver or prior trustee and for the payment of such reasonable administrative expenses and allowances in the prior proceeding as may be fixed by the court appointing said receiver or prior trustee. If a receiver or trustee has been appointed by a Federal or State or Territorial court prior to the institution of a proceeding under this section, and such proceeding shall be dismissed under subdivision (c), clause (8), of this section, the judge may include in the order of dismissal appropriate orders directing the trustee or trustees, or the debtor if no trustee is appointed, to transfer possession of the debtor's property within the territorial jurisdiction of such court to the receiver or prior trustee so appointed, upon such terms as the judge may deem equitable for the protection of obligations incurred by any trustee or trustees appointed under this section, and for the payment of administrative expenses and allowances in the proceeding hereunder. For the purposes of this section the words 'Federal court' shall include the district courts of the United States and of the Territories and possessions to which this amendatory Act is or may hereafter be applicable, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and the United States Court of Alaska, and the District Court of the United States for the Territory of Hawaii.

"(j) A certified copy of the final decree or of an order confirming a plan of reorganization, or of any other decree or order entered in a proceeding under this section, shall be evidence of the jurisdiction of the court, the regularity of the proceedings, and the fact that the decree or order was made. A certified copy of an

order directing the transfer of the property dealt with by the plan as provided in subdivision (h) of this section shall be evidence of the transfer of title accordingly, and if recorded shall impart the same notice that a deed, if recorded, would impart.

"(k) If an order is entered directing the trustee or trustees to liquidate the estate pursuant to the provisions of clause (8) of subdivision (c) of this section: (1) The case may be referred to a referee as provided in section 22, who shall be compensated as provided in section 40; (2) the first meeting of creditors shall be held as provided in section 55, upon notice as provided in section 58; (3) a trustee or trustees shall be appointed as provided in section 44, and be compensated as provided in section 48; (4) claims which are provable under section 63 may be proved as provided in section 57, except that the time within which proof may be made shall not expire until six months after the date of the last publication of the notice of the first meeting; (5) debts shall be entitled to priority as provided in section 64; (6) sales shall be made as provided in subdivision (b) of section 70; (7) dividends may be declared and paid as provided in section 65. None of the sections enumerated in this subdivision (k), except subdivisions (g), (i), (j), and (m) of section 57, and subdivisions (a) and (e) of section 70, shall apply to proceedings instituted under this section 77B unless and until an order has been entered directing the trustee or trustees to liquidate the estate. All other provisions of this Act, except such as are inconsistent with the provisions of this section 77B, shall apply to proceedings instituted under this section, whether or not an order to liquidate the estate has been entered. For the purposes of such application, provisions relating to 'bankrupts' shall be deemed to relate also to 'debtors'; 'bankruptcy proceedings' or 'proceedings in bankruptcy' shall be deemed to include proceedings under this section; the date of the order approving the petition or answer under this section shall be taken to be the date of adjudication, and such order shall have the same consequences and effect as an order of adjudication.

"(l) No judge, debtor, or trustee acting under this section shall deny or in any way question the right of employees on the property under the jurisdiction of the judge, to join the labor organization of their choice, and it shall be unlawful for any judge, debtor, or trustee to interfere in any way with the organizations of employees, or to use funds under such jurisdiction, in maintaining so-called company unions, or to coerce employees in an effort to induce them to join or remain members of such company unions.

"(m) No judge, debtor, or trustee acting under this section shall require any person seeking employment on the property under the jurisdiction of the judge to sign any contract or agreement promising to join or to refuse to join a labor organization; and if such contract has been enforced on the property prior to the property coming under the jurisdiction of said judge, then the judge, debtor, or trustee, as soon as the matter is called to his attention, shall notify the employees by an appropriate order that said contract has been discarded and is no longer binding on them in any way.

"(n) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed or be deemed to affect or apply to the stockholders, creditors, or officers of any corporation operating or owning a railroad or railroads, railway or railways, owned in whole or in part by any municipality and/or owned or operated by a municipality, or under any contract to any municipality by or on its behalf or in conjunction with such municipality under any contract, lease, agreement, certificate, or in any other manner provided by law for such operation: *Provided, however,* That this paragraph shall not apply to or affect any corporation or the stockholders, creditors, or officers thereof, if not more than 20 per centum of its operating revenue is derived from such operations.

"(o) In proceedings under this section and consistent with the provisions thereof, the jurisdiction and powers of the court, the duties of the debtor and the rights and liabilities of creditors, and of all persons with respect to the debtor and its property,

shall be the same as if a voluntary petition for adjudication had been filed and a decree of adjudication had been entered on the day when the debtor's petition or answer was approved.

"(p) This section shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of the approval of this amendatory Act and shall apply as fully to debtors, their stockholders and creditors, whose interests or debts have been acquired or incurred prior to such date, as to debtors, their stockholders and creditors, whose interests or debts are acquired or incurred after such date. Proceedings under this section may be taken in proceedings in bankruptcy which are pending on the effective date of this amendatory Act."

SEC. 2. Section 74, subdivision (e), of such Act of July 1, 1898, as amended, is amended by adding a new sentence at the end of the subdivision, to read as follows: "After the first meeting of the creditors as provided in subdivision (c), the debtor fails to obtain the acceptance of a majority in number of all creditors whose claims are affected by an extension proposal representing a majority in amount, the debtor may submit a proposal for an extension including a feasible method of financial rehabilitation for the debtor which is for the best interest of all the creditors, including an equitable liquidation for the secured creditors whose claims are affected." Said section 74, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, shall include the personal representative of a deceased individual for the purpose of effecting settlement or composition with the creditors of the estate: *Provided, however,* That such personal representative shall first obtain the consent and authority of the court which has assumed jurisdiction of said estate, to invoke the relief provided by said Act of March 3, 1933. The first sentence of subdivision (m) of said section 74 is amended to read as follows: "The filing of a debtor's petition or answer seeking relief under this section shall subject the debtor and his property, wherever located, to the exclusive

jurisdiction of the court in which the order approving the petition or answer as provided in subdivision (a) is filed, and this shall include property of the debtor in the possession of a trustee under a trust deed or a mortgage, or a receiver, custodian or other officer of any court in a pending cause, irrespective of the date of appointment of such receiver or other officer, or the date of the institution of such proceedings: *Provided,* That it shall not affect any proceeding in any court in which a final decree has been entered."

SEC. 3. In the administration of the Act of July 1, 1898, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States", approved July 1, 1898, as amended, the district court or any judge thereof shall, in its or his discretion, so apportion appointments of receivers and trustees among persons, firms, or corporations, or attorneys therefor, within the district, eligible thereto, as to prevent any person, firm, or corporation from having a monopoly of such appointments within such district. No person shall be appointed as a receiver or trustee who is a near relative of the judge of the court making such appointment. The compensation allowed a receiver or trustee or an attorney for a receiver or trustee shall in no case be excessive or exorbitant, and the court in fixing such compensation shall have in mind the conservation and preservation of the estate of the bankrupt and the interests of the creditors therein.

SEC. 4. (a) Section 63(a) of the Act of July 1, 1898, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States", approved July 1, 1898, as amended, is amended to read as follows: "(a) Debts of the bankrupt may be proved and allowed against his estate which are (1) a fixed liability, as evidenced by a judgment or an instrument in writing, absolutely owing at the time of the filing of the petition against him, whether then payable or not, with any interest thereon which would have been recoverable at that date or with a rebate of interest upon such as

were not then payable and did not bear interest; (2) due as costs taxable against an involuntry bankrupt who was at the time of the filing of the petition against him plaintiff in a cause of action which would pass to the trustee and which the trustee declines to prosecute after notice; (3) founded upon a claim for taxable costs incurred in good faith by a creditor before the filing of a petition in an action to recover a provable debt; (4) founded upon an open account, or upon a contract express or implied; (5) founded upon provable debts reduced to judgments after the filing of the petition and before the consideration of the bankrupt's application for a discharge, less costs incurred and interest accrued after the filing of the petition and up to the time of the entry of such judgments; (6) founded upon an award of an industrial accident commission, or other commission, body or officer, of any State or Territory having power or jurisdiction to make awards as workmen's compensation in case of injury or death for injury prior to adjudication; (6½) the amount of any damages, as evidenced by a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, in any action for negligence instituted prior to adjudication of defendant in such action in bankruptcy and pending at the time of the filing of petition in bankruptcy, whether voluntary or involuntary; and (7) claims for damages respecting executory contracts including future rents whether the bankrupt be an individual or a corporation, but the claim of a landlord for injury resulting from the rejection by the trustee of an unexpired lease of real estate or for damages or indemnity under a covenant contained in such lease shall in no event be allowed in an amount exceeding the rent reserved by the lease, without acceleration, for the year next succeeding the date of the surrender of the premises plus an amount equal to the unpaid rent accrued up to said date: *Provided,* That the court shall scrutinize the circumstances of an assignment of future rent claims and the amount of the consideration paid for such assignment in determining the amount of damages allowed assignee hereunder: *Provided further,* That the provisions of this clause

(7) shall apply to estates pending at the time of the enactment of this amendatory Act."

(b) The provisions of clause (6) of section 63(a) of such Act of July 1, 1898, as amended by this section, shall apply to estates pending at the time of the enactment of this Act, and claims provided for in such clause (6) shall have the priority provided for in clause (7) of section 64(b) of such Act of July 1, 1898, as amended.

SEC. 5. Section 67(f) of the Act of July 1, 1898, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States", approved July 1, 1898, as amended, is amended to read as follows: "That all levies, judgments, attachments, or other liens, obtained through legal proceedings against a person who is insolvent, at any time within four months prior to the filing of a petition in bankruptcy against him, and any bond which may be given to dissolve any such lien so created, shall be deemed null and void in case he is adjudged a bankrupt, and the property affected by the levy, judgment, attachment, or other lien, and any nonexempt property of his which he shall have deposited or pledged as security for such bond or to indemnify any surety thereon, shall be deemed wholly discharged and released from the same, and shall pass to the trustee as a part of the estate of the bankrupt, unless the court shall, on due notice, order that the right under such levy, judgment, attachment, or other lien shall be preserved for the benefit of the estate; and thereupon the same may pass to and shall be preserved by the trustee for the benefit of the estate as aforesaid. And the court may order such conveyance as shall be necessary to carry the purposes of this section into effect: *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall have the effect to destroy or impair the title obtained by such levy, judgment, attachment, or other lien, of a bona fide purchaser for value who shall have acquired the same without notice or reasonable cause for inquiry.

SEC. 6. Conciliation commissioners appointed under section 75 of such Act of July 1, 1898, as amended, shall be entitled to transmit in the mails free of postage under cover of a penalty envelope all matters which relate exclusively to the business of the Government, including notices to creditors.

SEC. 7. Proceedings under section 77 of chapter 8, amendment to the Act of July 1, 1898, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States", as amended, approved March 3, 1933, shall not be grounds for the removal of any cause of action to the United States district court which was not removable before the passage and approval of this section, and any cause of action heretofore removed from a State court on account of this section shall be remanded to the court from which it was removed, and such order of removal vacated.

SEC. 8. That the first sentence of subsection (a) of section 75 of the Act of July 1, 1898, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States" as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"Within thirty days after the enactment of this Act every court of bankruptcy of which the jurisdiction or territory includes a county or counties having an agricultural population (according to the last available United States census) of five hundred or more farmers shall appoint one or more referees to be known as 'conciliation commissioners', one such conciliation commissioner to be appointed for each county having an agricultural population of five hundred or more farmers according to said census: *Provided further,* That where any county in any such district contains a smaller number of farmers according to said census, for the purposes of this paragraph such county shall be included with one or more adjacent counties where the population of the counties so combined includes five hundred or more farmers, according to said census."

SEC. 9. That the second sentence of subdivision (b) of section 75 of the Act of July 1, 1898, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States", as amended, is amended to read as follows: "The conciliation commissioner shall receive as compensation for his services, including all expenses, a fee of $25 for each case docketed and submitted to him, to be paid out of the Treasury."

SEC. 10. That section 76 of the Act of July 1, 1898, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 76. Extensions made pursuant to the foregoing provisions of this chapter shall extend the obligation of any person who is secondarily liable for or who may have insured or guaranteed such debt or debts, or any part thereof, or bonds issued upon the security of same, and a copy of the order confirming such extension, certified as required by the provisions of law with reference to judgments and proceedings in courts of the United States, shall be sufficient evidence that such extension has been confirmed in any suit or proceeding brought against any such person so liable."

APPROVED, June 7, 1934, 12 o'clock, noon.