



Seventy-Eighth Congress, Session II
Chapter 87 — 58 Stat. 113 — Public Law 251 (H. R. 4166)
March 11, 1944

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 sections 75(a), 75(b), and 75(c) 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:

“Sec. 75. (a) Every United States district court of bankruptcy shall appoint not more than twenty persons in any one district to be known as ‘conciliation commissioners’. One such commissioner shall be appointed from each division or for the territory served by the city where terms of court are held. The court shall designate the territorial district of each such commissioner. A conciliation commissioner’s term of office shall be two years, but he may be removed by the court if his services are no longer needed or for other cause. No individual shall be eligible to appointment as a conciliation commissioner unless he is eligible for appointment as referee and in addition is a resident of the district, familiar with agricultural conditions therein and not engaged in the farm-mortgage business, the business of financing farmers or transactions in agricultural commodities or the business of marketing or dealing in agricultural commodities or of furnishing agricultural supplies. In each judicial district the court may, if it finds it necessary or desirable, appoint a suitable person as a supervising conciliation commissioner. The supervising conciliation commissioner

shall have such supervisory functions under this section as the court may by order specify.

“75. (b) Upon filing of any petition by a farmer under this section there shall be paid a fee of \$25 to be transmitted to the clerk of the court and covered into the Treasury. The conciliation commissioner shall receive as compensation for his services a fee of \$25 for each case submitted to him, to be paid out of the Treasury when the conciliation commissioner completes the duties assigned to him by the court. A supervising conciliation commissioner shall receive, as compensation for his services, a per diem allowance to be fixed by the court, in an amount not in excess of \$10 per day, together with subsistence and travel expenses in accordance with the law applicable to officers of the Department of Justice. Such compensation and expenses shall be paid out of the Treasury. If the creditors at any time desire supervision over the farming operations of a farmer, the cost of such supervision shall be borne by such creditors or by the farmer, as may be agreed upon by them, but in no instance shall the farmer be required to pay more than one-half of the cost of such supervision. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent a conciliation commissioner who supervises such farming operations from receiving such compensation therefor as may be so agreed upon. No fees, costs, or other charges shall be charged or taxed to any farmer or his creditors by any conciliation commissioner or with respect to any proceeding under this section, except as hereinbefore in this section provided. The conciliation commissioner may accept and avail himself of office space, equipment, and assistance furnished him by other Federal officials, or by any State, county, or other public officials. The Supreme Court is authorized to make such general orders as it may find necessary properly to govern the administration of the office of conciliation commissioner and proceedings under this section; but any district court of the United States may, for good cause shown and in the interests of justice, permit any such general order to be waived.

“75. (c) At any time prior to March 4, 1946, a petition may be filed by any farmer, stating that the farmer is insolvent or unable to meet his debts as they mature, and that it is desirable to effect a composition or an extension of time to pay his debts. The petition or answer of the farmer shall be accompanied by his schedules. The petition and answer shall be filed with the court, but shall, on request of the farmer or creditor, be received by the conciliation commissioner for the county in which the farmer resides and promptly transmitted by him to the clerk of the court for filing. If any such petition is filed, an order of adjudication shall not be entered except as provided hereinafter in this section.”

APPROVED March 11, 1944.