

## **American Legislation, Acts, Bills, Ordinances, Amendments, and Provisos**

**Northwest Ordinance** – 1787, divided territories in the Midwest into townships and allowed them to eventually become states; supported public schools; prohibited slavery in the region; written by Dane  
**Fugitive Slave Laws** - 1793, updated in Compromise of 1850, providing different fees to judges depending on their verdict

**Naturalization Act** – 1798, increased citizen residency requirement from 5 to 14 years; repealed in 1802

**Alien Act** – 1798, allowed President to deport any alien considered dangerous; expired in 1800

**Alien Enemies Act** – 1798, allowed for the deportation of citizens of nations at war with the US; expired in 1801

**Sedition Act** – 1798, prohibited printing of libel or fostering opposition to US laws

**Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions** – 1798, drafted by Jefferson and Madison in opposition to infringements of civil liberties in the Alien and Sedition Acts; later cited by nullification proponents

**Missouri Compromise** – 1820, Clay's (KY) proposal allowed slave state MO and free state ME to enter (keeping balance at 12 each);

**Thomas Proviso to Missouri Compromise** – 1820, Thomas (IL) added proviso preventing slavery north of 36 30 in LA purchase

**Tallmadge Amendment to Missouri Compromise** – 1820, would have freed slaves born in MO at age 25

**Specie Circular** – 1836, required land payments be made in gold or silver; devalued currency; supported by Jackson; written by Benton, delivered by Treasury Secretary Woodbury

**Wilmot Proviso** – 1846, proviso added by Wilmot (PN) to appropriations bill preventing slavery in lands acquired from Mexico; removed from the bill by the Senate

**Compromise of 1850** – 1850, Clay's (KY) proposal included ending of slavery in DC, admission of CA, a new Fugitive Slave Law, establishment of NM and UT territories, and \$10 million payment to TX

**Kansas-Nebraska Act** – 1854, Douglas's (IL) proposal created KS and NE, and allowed settlers in both states to decide slavery issue for themselves, repealing Missouri Compromise

**Homestead Act** – 1862, provided free land up to 160 acres to people who would settle on it for five years

**Morrill Land-Grant College Act** – 1862, provided much federal land to states for establishing state universities

**Enrollment Act** – 1863, instituted a draft for the Civil War, allowing exception by the payment of \$300

**Wade-Davis Bill** – 1864, Wade (OH) and Davis (MD) proposed bill requiring half a state's white males to swear loyalty before reestablishing state governments in the South; pocket-vetoed by Lincoln, who supported his Ten Percent Plan

**Freedmen's Bureau** – 1865, also Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands; established Freedmen's Bureau to help freed slaves; headed by Howard

**Tenure of Office Act** – 1867, prevented the President from removing officials without Senate's consent; violated by Andrew Johnson when he replaced Secretary of War Stanton with Thomas, leading to his impeachment trial

**Bland-Allison Act** – 1878, created silver certificate and allowed silver purchase by the government

**Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act** – 1883, required competitive tests for federal civil service jobs; passed in response to Garfield's assassination by Guiteau; drafted by Pendleton and Eaton

**Sherman Antitrust Act** – 1890, proposal by Sherman (OH) outlawed all trusts in restraint of free trade

**Sherman Silver Purchase Act** – 1890, proposal by Sherman (OH) provided by monthly purchase of silver by federal government

**Teller Amendment to Declaration of War with Spain** – 1898, stated that the US would not annex Cuba

**Platt Amendment to the Army Appropriations Bill of 1901** – 1901, ended US occupation of Cuba; established naval base at Guantanamo Bay

**Spooner Amendment to the Army Appropriations Bill of 1901** – 1901, provided for civilian government in the Philippines

**Pure Food and Drug Act** – 1906, supported by Wiley; inspired by Sinclair's *Jungle*; amended 1938

**Owen-Glass Act** – 1913, established Federal Reserve

**Clayton Antitrust Act** – 1914, amendment to Sherman Antitrust Act by Clayton (AL); dealt with new monopolistic practices

**Espionage Act** – 1917, provides stiff penalties for spying against the US

**Glass-Steagall Act** – 1932, extended credit and gold to industries

**Norris-LaGuardia Act** – 1932, banned yellow-dog contracts and prevented injunctions

**National Industrial Recovery Act** – 1933, established Public Works Administration (under Ickes) and **National Recovery Administration** to help economic recovery from Great Depression; NRA was ruled unconstitutional in *Schechter Poultry v. US*

**Wagner Act** – 1935, also **National Labor Relations Act**; granted rights to unions; allowed collective bargaining

**Hatch Act** – 1939, also **Political Activity Act**; limited political activities of federal employees; limited individual campaign contributions

**Smith Act** – 1940, also **Alien Registration Act**; outlawed advocacy of force to change government

**Lend-Lease Act** – 1941, allowed the President to grant economic aid to nations important to the defense of the US

**Taft-Hartley Act** – 1947, also Labor-Management Relations Acts; curbed powers of unions; outlawed closed shop; allowed right-to-work laws; passed over Truman's veto

**McCarran-Walter Act** – 1952, removed ban on immigration by Asians to US

**Landrum-Griffin Act** – 1959, also Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act; Bill of Rights for union members; regulated union internal affairs; required reporting of union dealings

**Voting Rights Act of 1965** – 1965, provided federal enforcement of laws allowing minorities to vote

**Medicare Act** – 1965, established health insurance for the elderly

**Medicaid Act** – 1965, established health insurance for the poor

**Social Security Act of 1967** – 1967, established social welfare insurance

**Civil Rights Act of 1968** – 1968, prohibited racial or religious discrimination in housing

**Boland Amendment** – 1984, prevented US aid for contras in Nicaragua