

CHAPTER 118.

(Senate Bill 222)

AN ACT to add 3 new Sections to Article 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Veterans," (said Article having been added by the General Assembly of Maryland of 1945), said new Sections to follow immediately after Section 42 of said Article, and to be known as Sections 43, 44, and 45, and to provide that official findings, records, reports or certified copies thereof of death, presumed death, missing or other status issued by authorized officials or agencies of the United States shall be received and shall be evidence in any courts, offices and other place in this State.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That 3 new Sections be added to Article 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Veterans," to follow immediately after Section 42 of said Article, and to be known as Sections 43, 44 and 45, said new Sections to read as follows:

43. A written finding of presumed death made by the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy or other officer or employee of the United States authorized by the Federal law to make such finding or a duly certified copy of such finding shall be received in any court, office or other place in this State as evidence of the death of the person therein disclosed to be dead and of the date, circumstances and place of his death or disappearance.

44. An official written report or record or duly certified copy thereof that a person is missing, missing in action, interned in a neutral country or is beleaguered, besieged or captured by an enemy or is dead or is alive, made by any of the persons referred to in Section 43 of this Act shall be received in any court, office or other place in this State as evidence that such person is missing, missing in action, interned in a neutral country or beleaguered, besieged, captured by an enemy or is dead or is alive as the case may be.

45. For the purpose of Section 43 and Section 44 of this Act any finding, report or record, or duly certified copy thereof, purporting to have been signed by such an officer or employee of the United States as is described in said sections, shall prima facie be deemed to have been signed and issued by such an officer or employee pursuant to law, and the person signing same shall prima facie be deemed