CHAP. LXXI. — An Act prescribing the Form of the enacting and resolving Clauses of Acts and Resolutions of Congress, and Rules for the Construction thereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the enacting clause of all acts of Congress hereafter enacted shall be in the following form: “Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled”; and the resolving clause of all joint resolutions shall be in the following form: “Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled”; and no further enacting or resolving words shall be used in any subsequent section or resolution after the first; and each section shall be numbered and contain as nearly as may be a single proposition of enactment.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That in all acts hereafter passed words importing the singular number may extend and be applied to several persons or things; words importing the plural number may include the singular; words importing the masculine gender may be applied to females; the words “insane person” and “lunatic” shall include every idiot, non-compos, lunatic, and insane person; and the word “person” may extend and be applied to bodies politic and corporate, and the reference to any officer shall include any person authorized by law to perform the duties of such office, unless the context shows that such words were intended to be used in a more limited sense; and the word “oath” shall include “affirmation” in cases where by law an affirmation may be substituted for an oath, and in like cases the word “sworn” shall include the word “affirmed.”

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That, whenever an act shall be re-