

of fifteen degrees from the prime meridian shall be the hour meridians or substandards by which the local reckoning of time shall be regulated; and the reckoning of time throughout the United States shall be in agreement with the reckoning of civil time on the prime meridian, excepting only with respect to the commencement of the day and the notation of the hours, which shall be as hereinafter provided; in all other respects the division and subdivision of the day into hours, minutes, and seconds in the United States shall be synchronous with the divisions and subdivisions of the day on the prime meridian.

SEC. 2. That the commencement of the day and the notation of the hours in different time sections of the United States shall differ from the commencement of the civil day and the notation of the hours on the prime meridian as follows:

(a) In the time sections where the reckoning of time is regulated by hour meridian number seventeen, or the substandard meridian which is seventy-five degrees west longitude, the reckoning shall be five hours behind the reckoning on the prime meridian.

(b) In the time section where the reckoning of time is regulated by hour meridian number eighteen, or the substandard meridian which is ninety degrees west longitude, the reckoning shall be six hours behind the reckoning on the prime meridian.

(c) In the time sections where the reckoning of time is regulated by hour meridian number nineteen, or the substandard meridian which is one hundred and five degrees west longitude, the reckoning shall be seven hours behind the reckoning on the prime meridian.

(d) In the time section where the reckoning of time is regulated by hour meridian number twenty, or the substandard meridian which is one hundred and twenty degrees west longitude, the reckoning shall be eight hours behind the reckoning on the prime meridian.

SEC. 3. That the time sections referred to in section two of this act embrace the country on each side of and contiguous to the substandard meridians therein mentioned; but it shall be competent for the constituted authorities of any State, city, incorporated towns or villages, or by the commissioner or courts of any county to adopt the substandard by which to reckon time, as shall seem to them most convenient, and such standard shall be legal and shall be recognized by the courts and officials of the United States; and the time for judicial, municipal, registration, or other purposes in any locality shall, unless otherwise specified, be held to be according to the reckoning so adopted and commonly used by the inhabitants of such locality.

SEC. 4. That the hours of the day may, in any locality, be numbered in a single series of numbers, from zero to twenty-four, and this method of designating the hours, commonly known as "the 'twenty-four hour notation,'" shall be equally valid with that of numbering the hours in two series of twelve hours each, distinguished as ante-meridian and post-meridian hours.

SEC. 5. That this act shall come into force on _____, anno Domini, eighteen hundred and ninety-one.