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## **General Clauses Act 1897 s 1 – Short title**

**This Act may be called the General Clauses Act, 1897.**

### SYNOPSIS

Legislative dictionary and rules of statutory interpretation

### **Legislative dictionary and rules of statutory interpretation**

The General Clauses Act 1897 is not confined to a particular branch of the law, but applies to all its branches. The objects of the Act are – to shorten the language of the Central Acts; to provide, as far as possible, for uniformity of expression in Central Acts, by giving definition of a series of terms in common use; to state explicitly certain convenient rules for interpretation of Central Acts (i.e. it does not codifies all the rules of statutory interpretation); and to guard against the slips and oversights by importing into every Act certain common form clauses, which otherwise out to be inserted expressly in every Central Act.

It may be noted that the General Clauses Act 1897 applies to central enactments only. States may enact their own Acts of Interpretation such as the Bihar and Orissa General Clause Act 1917.