

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3812

To require immediate action to remove sunken or grounded vessels that obstruct navigable waterways.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 1994

Mr. FIELDS of Texas (for himself and Mr. LAUGHLIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation

A BILL

To require immediate action to remove sunken or grounded vessels that obstruct navigable waterways.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Waterways Obstruc-
5 tion Removal Act of 1994”.

6 **SEC. 2. OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL REQUIREMENT.**

7 (a) Section 16 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat.
8 1153; 33 U.S.C. 411) is amended by—

9 (1) striking “and 409” and inserting “409,
10 414, and 415”; and

1 (2) striking the language “not exceeding \$2500
2 nor less than \$500” and inserting “of up to \$25,000
3 per day”.

4 (b) Section 20 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat.
5 1154; 33 U.S.C. 415) is amended by—

6 (1) striking the word “expense” where it first
7 appears in subsection (a) and subsection (b) and in-
8 serting “actual expense, including administrative ex-
9 penses”;

10 (2) redesignating existing subsection (b) as sub-
11 section (c); and

12 (3) inserting a new subsection (b) to read as
13 follows:

14 “(b) REMOVAL REQUIREMENT.—Within twenty four
15 hours after the Secretary of the Department in which the
16 Coast Guard is operating issues an order to stop or delay
17 navigation in any navigable waters of the United States
18 because of conditions related to the sinking or grounding
19 of a vessel, the owner or operator of the vessel, with the
20 approval of the Secretary of the Army, shall begin removal
21 of the vessel using the most expeditious removal method
22 available; or if appropriate, secure the vessel pending re-
23 moval to allow navigation to resume. If the owner or oper-
24 ator fails to begin removal or to secure the vessel pending
25 removal, or fails to complete removal as soon as possible,

1 the Secretary of the Army shall remove or destroy the ves-
2 sel using the summary removal procedures under sub-
3 section (a) of this section.”.

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