

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3376

To amend title 46, United States Code, to ensure the traditional right of self-defense of United States mariners against acts of piracy, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2009

Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to ensure the traditional right of self-defense of United States mariners against acts of piracy, and for other purposes.

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 “United States Mariner  
5 and Vessel Protection Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. USE FORCE AGAINST PIRACY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 81 of title 46, United  
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing new section:

1 **“§ 8107. Use of force against piracy**

2 “An owner, operator, time charterer, master, or mar-  
3 iner who uses force, or authorizes the use of force, to de-  
4 fend a vessel of the United States against an act of piracy  
5 shall not be liable for any injury or death caused by such  
6 force to any person participating in the act of piracy.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the be-  
8 ginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end  
9 the following new item:

“8107. Use of force against piracy.”.

10 **SEC. 3. AGREEMENTS.**

11 To carry out the purpose of this Act, the Secretary  
12 of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating  
13 shall work through the International Maritime Organiza-  
14 tion to establish agreements to promote coordinated action  
15 among flag- and port-states to deter, protect against, and  
16 rapidly respond to acts of piracy against the vessels of,  
17 and in the waters under the jurisdiction of, those nations,  
18 and to ensure limitations on liability similar to those es-  
19 tablished by section 8107 of title 46, United States Code,  
20 as amended by this Act.

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