To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

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Sec. 102. Conforming amendments.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

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Sec. 205. Auxiliary jurisdiction.
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Sec. 209. Repeal.
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Sec. 301. Treatment of fishing permits.
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Sec. 502. Elimination of reports.
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1 TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

2 SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATIONS.

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is

4 amended by adding at the end the following:
“PART III—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATIONS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS

“Chap. Sec.
“27. Authorizations ................................................................. 2701
“29. Reports ............................................................................. 2901.

“CHAPTER 27—AUTHORIZATIONS

“Sec.
“2704. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

“§ 2702. Authorization of appropriations

“Funds are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

“(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for—

“(A) $6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(B) $6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2017.

“(2) For the acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment—

“(A) $1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(B) $1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2017.

“(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including operations and maintenance of the program,
personnel and training costs, equipment, and services—

“(A) $140,016,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(B) $140,016,000 for fiscal year 2017.

“(4) For the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of this title—

“(A) $16,701,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(B) $16,701,000 for fiscal year 2017.

“(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard’s mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment—

“(A) $19,890,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

“(B) $19,890,000 for fiscal year 2017.
§ 2704. Authorized levels of military strength and training

(a) Active Duty Strength.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 43,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

(b) Military Training Student Loads.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 as follows:

(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.

(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.

(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

CHAPTER 29—REPORTS

Sec. 2904. Manpower requirements plan.

§ 2904. Manpower requirements plan

(a) In General.—On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019 under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
(b) Scope.—A manpower requirements plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include for each mission of the Coast Guard—

“(1) an assessment of all projected mission requirements for the upcoming fiscal year and for each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

“(2) the number of active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel assigned or available to fulfill such mission requirements—

“(A) currently; and

“(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

“(3) the number of active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel required to fulfill such mission requirements—

“(A) currently; and

“(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

“(4) an identification of any capability gaps between mission requirements and mission performance caused by deficiencies in the numbers of personnel available—
“(A) currently; and

“(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter; and

“(5) an identification of the actions the Commandant will take to address capability gaps identified under paragraph (4).

“(c) CONSIDERATION.—In composing a manpower requirements plan for submission under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider—

“(1) the marine safety strategy required under section 2116 of title 46;

“(2) information on the adequacy of the acquisition workforce included in the most recent report under section 2903 of this title; and

“(3) any other Federal strategic planning effort the Commandant considers appropriate.”.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 662 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating such section as section 2701;

(2) by transferring such section to appear before section 2702 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section); and
(3) by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the following:

“(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for.

“(2) For the acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment.

“(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including operations and maintenance of the program, personnel and training costs, equipment, and services.

“(4) For the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of this title.

“(5) For research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard’s mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment.
“(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over navigable waters of the United States constituting obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and administrative costs associated with the Alteration of Bridges Program.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL END STRENGTHS.—Section 661 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

   (1) by redesignating such section as section 2703; and

   (2) by transferring such section to appear before section 2704 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section).

(d) REPORTS.—

   (1) TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.—Section 662a of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

      (A) by redesignating such section as section 2901;

      (B) by transferring such section to appear before section 2904 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section); and

      (C) in subsection (b)—
(i) in paragraph (1) by striking “described in section 661” and inserting “described in section 2703”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) by striking “described in section 662” and inserting “described in section 2701”.

(2) **Capital Investment Plan.**—Section 663 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2902; and

(B) by transferring such section to appear after section 2901 of such title (as so redesignated and transferred by paragraph (1) of this subsection).

(3) **Major Acquisitions.**—Section 569a of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2903;

(B) by transferring such section to appear after section 2902 of such title (as so redesignated and transferred by paragraph (2) of this subsection); and

(C) in subsection (e)(2) by striking “of this subchapter”.
(e) Icebreaking on the Great Lakes.—For fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may use funds made available pursuant to section 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section) for the selection of a design for and the construction of an icebreaker that is capable of buoy tending to enhance icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

SEC. 102. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Analysis for Title 14.—The analysis for title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to part II the following:

"III. Coast Guard Authorizations and Reports to Congress ........................................ 2701".

(b) Analysis for Chapter 15.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569a.

(c) Analysis for Chapter 17.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 661, 662, 662a, and 663.

(d) Analysis for Chapter 27.—The analysis for chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting—
(1) before the item relating to section 2702 the following:

“2701. Requirement for prior authorization of appropriations.”;

and

(2) before the item relating to section 2704 the following:

“2703. Authorization of personnel end strengths.”.

e) Analysis for Chapter 29.—The analysis for chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 2904 the following:

“2901. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.
   “2902. Capital investment plan.
   “2903. Major acquisitions.”.

(f) Mission Need Statement.—Section 569(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

   (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “in section 569a(e)” and inserting “in section 2903”; and

   (2) in paragraph (3) by striking “under section 663(a)(1)” and inserting “under section 2902(a)(1)”.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. VICE COMMANDANT.

(a) Grades and Ratings.—Section 41 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “an admiral,” and inserting “admirals (two);”.
(b) Vice Commandant; Appointment.—Section 47 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “vice admiral” and inserting “admiral”.

(c) Conforming Amendment.—Section 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting “admiral or” before “vice admiral,”;

(2) in subsection (b) by inserting “admiral or” before “vice admiral,” each place it appears; and

(3) in subsection (c) by inserting “admiral or” before “vice admiral,”.

(d) Application.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the officer who, on the date of the enactment of this Act, is serving as Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard—

(1) shall have the grade of admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade; and

(2) shall not be required to be reappointed by reason of the enactment of this Act, including the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 202. VICE ADMIRALS.

Section 50 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) The President may—

“(A) designate, within the Coast Guard, no more than 5 positions of importance and responsibility that shall be held by officers who, while so serving, shall have the grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade, and shall perform such duties as the Commandant may prescribe (if the President designates 5 such positions, 1 position shall be a Chief of Staff); and

“(B) designate, within the executive branch, other than within the Coast Guard, positions of importance and responsibility that shall be held by officers who, while so serving, shall have the grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking “under paragraph (1)” and inserting “under paragraph (1)(A)”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and
(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) at the discretion of the Secretary, while awaiting orders after being relieved from the position, beginning on the day the officer is relieved from the position, but not for more than 60 days; and”.

SEC. 203. COAST GUARD REMISSION OF INDEBTEDNESS.

(a) In general.—Section 461 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 461. Remission of indebtedness

“The Secretary may have remitted or cancelled any part of a person’s indebtedness to the United States or any instrumentality of the United States if—

“(1) the indebtedness was incurred while the person served on active duty as a member of the Coast Guard; and

“(2) the Secretary determines that remitting or cancelling the indebtedness is in the best interest of the United States.”.

(b) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 461 and inserting the following:

“461. Remission of indebtedness.”.
SEC. 204. ACQUISITION REFORM.

(a) Minimum Performance Standards.—Section 572(d)(3) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (J), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) the performance data to be used to determine whether the key performance parameters have been resolved;”; and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (C), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the following:

“(D) the results during test and evaluation that will be required to demonstrate that a capability, asset, or subsystem meets performance requirements;”.

(b) Capital Investment Plan.—Section 2902(a)(1) of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by striking “completion;” and inserting “completion based on the proposed appropriations included in the budget;”; and
(2) in subparagraph (D) by striking “at the projected funding levels;” and inserting “based on the proposed appropriations included in the budget;”.

(c) DAYS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

(1) implement a standard for tracking operational days at sea for Coast Guard cutters that does not include days during which such cutters are undergoing maintenance or repair; and

(2) notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the standard implemented under paragraph (1).

(d) FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FLEET MIX ANALYSIS.—Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a revised fleet mix analysis of Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft.
SEC. 205. AUXILIARY JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 822 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “The purpose” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) LIMITATION.—The Auxiliary may conduct a patrol of a waterway, or a portion thereof, only if—

“(1) the Commandant has determined such waterway, or portion thereof, is navigable for purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard; or

“(2) a State or other proper authority has requested such patrol pursuant to section 141 of this title or section 13109 of title 46.”.

(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

(1) review the waterways patrolled by the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the most recently completed fiscal year to determine whether such waterways are eligible or ineligible for patrol under section 822(b) of title 14, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)); and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written notification of—

(A) any waterways determined ineligible for patrol under paragraph (1); and

(B) the actions taken by the Commandant to ensure Auxiliary patrols do not occur on such waterways.

SEC. 206. LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.

Section 2903 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—

Each report under subsection (a) shall include a plan that describes for the upcoming fiscal year, and for each of the 20 fiscal years thereafter—

“(1) the numbers and types of cutters and aircraft to be decommissioned;

“(2) the numbers and types of cutters and aircraft to be acquired to—
“(A) replace the cutters and aircraft identified under paragraph (1); or

“(B) address an identified capability gap; and

“(3) the estimated level of funding in each fiscal year required to—

“(A) acquire the cutters and aircraft identified under paragraph (2);

“(B) acquire related command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems; and

“(C) acquire, construct, or renovate shore-side infrastructure.”.

SEC. 207. COAST GUARD COMMUNITIES.

Section 409 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (14 U.S.C. 639 note) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Commandant may recognize any other community in a similar manner if the Commandant determines that such community has demonstrated enduring support of the Coast Guard, Coast Guard personnel, and the dependents of Coast Guard personnel.”.
SEC. 208. “POLAR SEA” MATERIEL CONDITION ASSESSMENT
AND SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION DECISION.

Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall—

“(1) complete a materiel condition assessment with respect to the Polar Sea;

“(2) make a determination of whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea compared with other options to provide icebreaking services as part of a strategy to maintain polar icebreaking services; and

“(3) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

“(A) the assessment required under paragraph (1); and

“(B) written notification of the determination required under paragraph (2).”;

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(2) in subsection (b) by striking “analysis” and inserting “written notification”;

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (c) through (g), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking “based on the analysis required”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C) by striking “analysis” and inserting “written notification”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) DECOMMISSIONING.—If the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (a) that it is not cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then, not later than 180 days after written notification of that determination is submitted under that subsection, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.”; and

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:
“(3) Result of no determination.—If the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.”;

(6) in subsection (d)(1) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section) by striking “analysis” and inserting “written notification”; and

(7) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section) by striking “in subsection (d)” and inserting “in subsection (e)”.

SEC. 209. REPEAL.

Section 225(b)(2) of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281; 128 Stat. 3039) is repealed.

SEC. 210. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in the analysis for part I by striking the item relating to chapter 19 and inserting the following:

“19. Environmental Compliance and Restoration Program ......................................................... 690”;

(2) in section 46(a) by striking “subsection” and inserting “section”;
(3) in section 47 in the section heading by striking “commandant” and inserting “Commandant”;

(4) in section 93(f) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under paragraph (1) only if—

“(A) the lease is for cash exclusively;

“(B) the lease amount is equal to the fair market value of the use of the leased submerged lands or tidelands for the period during which such lands are leased, as determined by the Commandant;

“(C) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands and tidelands, or obtain goods and services from the lessee; and

“(D) proceeds from the lease are deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established under section 687.”;

(5) in the analysis for chapter 9 by striking the item relating to section 199 and inserting the following:

“199. Marine safety curriculum.”;
(6) in section 427(b)(2) by striking “this chapter” and inserting “chapter 61 of title 10”;

(7) in the analysis for chapter 15 before the item relating to section 571 by striking the following:

“Sec.”;

(8) in section 573(c)(3)(A) by inserting “and shall maintain such cutter in class” before the period at the end;

(9) in section 581(5)(B) by striking “$300,000,000,” and inserting “$300,000,000,”;

(10) in section 637(c)(3) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting “it is” before “any”;

(11) in section 641(d)(3) by striking “Guard, installation” and inserting “Guard installation”;

(12) in section 691(c)(3) by striking “state” and inserting “State”;

(13) in the analysis for chapter 21—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 709 and inserting the following:

“709. Reserve student aviation pilots; Reserve aviation pilots; appointments in commissioned grade.”;

and
(B) by striking the item relating to section 740 and inserting the following:

“740. Failure of selection and removal from an active status.”;

(14) in section 742(c) by striking “subsection” and inserting “subsections”;

(15) in section 821(b)(1) by striking “Chapter 26” and inserting “Chapter 171”; and

(16) in section 823a(b)(1), by striking “Chapter 26” and inserting “Chapter 171”.

SEC. 211. DIGITAL BOAT PROFILE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If, during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that there are at least 2 digital boat profile technologies that are commercially available, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program, in accordance with this section, under which digital boat profiles are utilized for—

(1) not less than 2 National Security Cutters;

(2) not less than 4 Fast Response Cutters; and

(3) not less than 4 Medium Endurance Cutters (270 foot).

(b) TIMING.—With respect to the National Security Cutters and Fast Response Cutters participating in the pilot program, a digital boat profile shall be established prior to the commissioning of the cutters.
(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the establishment of the pilot program, and annually thereafter for the succeeding 4 years, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the implementation of the pilot program; and

(2) the results of the use of digital boat profiles under the pilot program with respect to—

(A) efficient maintenance of the cutters involved; and

(B) the post-delivery warranty management of equipment items, the repair and replacement of which are contractually obligated.

(d) DIGITAL BOAT PROFILE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “digital boat profile” means a commercially available off-the-shelf technology that creates an electronic data source with respect to a vessel that—

(1) provides lifecycle management support, including through the incorporation of systems manuals, schematics, and vessel documentation;
(2) incorporates all manufacturer recommendations and operator best practices;

(3) incorporates the use of real-time analytics of deferred tasks, future tasks, readiness assessments, and budgetary planners;

(4) provides advance electronic notification of upcoming maintenance and inspections to multi-level permission-based recipients on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis;

(5) facilitates oversight for pre-delivery discrepancy reporting and post-delivery warranty management of equipment items, the repair and replacement of which are contractually obligated; and

(6) is accessible by computing devices.

SEC. 212. DISCONTINUANCE OF AN AID TO NAVIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process for the discontinuance of an aid to navigation established, maintained, or operated by the Coast Guard.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The process established under subsection (a) shall include procedures to notify the public of any discontinuance of an aid to navigation described in that subsection.
(c) CONSULTATION.—In establishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with and consider any recommendations of the Navigation Safety Advisory Council.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after establishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the process established.

SEC. 213. MISSION PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment of the efficacy of the Coast Guard’s Standard Operational Planning Process with respect to annual mission performance measures.

SEC. 214. COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish and carry out a response capabilities pilot program to assess, at not fewer than 2 Coast Guard command centers, the effectiveness of a radio gateway that—
(1) provides for—

(A) multiagency collaboration and interoperability; and

(B) wide-area, secure, and peer-invitation-and-acceptance-based multimedia communications;

(2) is certified by the Department of Defense Joint Interoperability Test Center; and

(3) is composed of commercially available, off-the-shelf technology.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the succeeding 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment of the pilot program, including the impacts of the program with respect to interagency and Coast Guard response capabilities.

SEC. 215. COAST GUARD GRADUATE MARITIME OPERATIONS EDUCATION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish an education pro-
gram, for members and employees of the Coast Guard, that—

(1) offers a master’s degree in maritime operations;

(2) is relevant to the professional development of such members and employees;

(3) provides resident and distant education options, including the ability to utilize both options; and

(4) to the greatest extent practicable, is conducted using existing academic programs at an accredited public academic institution that—

(A) is located near a significant number of Coast Guard, maritime, and other Department of Homeland Security law enforcement personnel; and

(B) has an ability to simulate operations normally conducted at a command center.

**TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION**

**SEC. 301. TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS.**

(a) In General.—Subchapter I of chapter 313 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
§31310. Treatment of fishing permits

(a) Limitation on Maritime Liens.—This chapter—

(1) does not establish a maritime lien on a fishing permit; and

(2) does not authorize any civil action to enforce a maritime lien on a fishing permit.

(b) Treatment of Fishing Permits Under State and Federal Law.—A fishing permit—

(1) is governed solely by the State or Federal law under which it is issued; and

(2) shall not be treated as part of a vessel, or as an appurtenance or intangible of a vessel, for any purpose under Federal law.

(c) Authority of Secretary of Commerce Not Affected.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as imposing any limitation upon the authority of the Secretary of Commerce—

(1) to modify, suspend, revoke, or impose a sanction on any fishing permit issued by the Secretary of Commerce; or

(2) to bring a civil action to enforce such a modification, suspension, revocation, or sanction.

(d) Fishing Permit Defined.—In this section the term ‘fishing permit’ means any authorization of a person
or vessel to engage in fishing that is issued under State
or Federal law.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections
at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
after the item relating to section 31309 the following:
“31310. Treatment of fishing permits.”.

6 SEC. 302. SURVIVAL CRAFT.

(a) In General.—Section 3104 of title 46, United
States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 3104. Survival craft

“(a) Requirement To Equip.—The Secretary shall
require that a passenger vessel be equipped with survival
craft that ensures that no part of an individual is im-
mersed in water, if—

“(1) such vessel is built or undergoes a major
conversion after January 1, 2016; and

“(2) operates in cold waters as determined by
the Secretary.

“(b) Higher Standard of Safety.—The Sec-
retary may revise part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code
of Federal Regulations, as in effect before January 1,
2016, if such revision provides a higher standard of safety
than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before
the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authoriza-
tion Act of 2015.
“(c) INNOVATIVE AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Secretary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, allow a passenger vessel to be equipped with a life saving appliance or arrangement of an innovative or novel design that—

“(1) ensures no part of an individual is immersed in water; and

“(2) provides an equal or higher standard of safety than is provided by such requirements as in effect before such date of the enactment.

“(d) BUILT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘built’ has the meaning that term has under section 4503(e).”.

(b) REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31, 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a review of—

(A) the number of casualties for individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly
as a result of immersion in water, reported to
the Coast Guard over the preceding 30-year pe-
riod, by vessel type and area of operation;

(B) the risks to individuals with disabil-
ities, children, and the elderly as a result of im-
mersion in water, by passenger vessel type and
area of operation;

(C) the effect that carriage of survival
craft that ensure that no part of an individual
is immersed in water has on—

   (i) passenger vessel safety, including
   stability and safe navigation;

   (ii) improving the survivability of indi-
   individuals, including individuals with disabil-
   ities, children, and the elderly; and

   (iii) the costs, the incremental cost
difference to vessel operators, and the cost
effectiveness of requiring the carriage of
such survival craft to address the risks to
individuals with disabilities, children, and
the elderly;

(D) the efficacy of alternative safety sys-
tems, devices, or measures in improving surviv-
ability of individuals with disabilities, children,
and the elderly; and
(E) the number of small businesses and nonprofit vessel operators that would be affected by requiring the carriage of such survival craft on passenger vessels to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly.

(2) Revision.—Based on the review conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary may revise regulations concerning the carriage of survival craft pursuant to section 3104(c) of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 303. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) In General.—Section 55305(d) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) Each department or agency that has responsibility for a program under this section shall administer that program consistent with this section and any regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Transportation concerning this section.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:
“(2)(A) The Secretary, after consulting with the department, agency, organization, or person involved, shall have exclusive authority for determining the applicability of this section to a program of a Federal department or agency, after consulting with the department, agency, organization, or person involved.

“(B) The head of a Federal department or agency shall request the Secretary to determine the applicability of this section to a program of such department or agency if the department or agency is uncertain of such applicability. Not later than 30 days after receiving such a request, the Secretary shall make such determination.

“(C) Subparagraph (B) shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to make a determination regarding the applicability of this section to a program administered by a Federal department or agency.

“(D) A determination made by the Secretary under this paragraph regarding a program shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines that this section no longer applies to such program.”;

(3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:
“(A) shall conduct an annual review of the administration of programs subject to the requirements of this section to determine compliance with the requirements of this section;”;

and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall make available on the Internet website of the Department of Transportation a report that—

“(A) lists the programs that were subject to determinations made by the Secretary under paragraph (2) in the preceding year; and

“(B) describes the results of the most recent annual review required by paragraph (3)(A), including identification of the departments and agencies that transported cargo in violation of this section and any action the Secretary took under paragraph (3) with respect to each violation.”.

(b) DEADLINE FOR FIRST REVIEW.—The Secretary of Transportation shall complete the first review required under the amendment made by subsection (a)(1)(C) by not later than December 31, 2015.
SEC. 304. MODEL YEARS FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.

(a) In general.—Section 4302 of title 46, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(1) If in prescribing regulations under this section the Secretary establishes a model year for recreational vessels and associated equipment, such model year shall, except as provided in paragraph (2)—

“(A) begin on June 1 of a year and end on July 31 of the following year; and

“(B) be designated by the year in which it ends.

“(2) Upon the request of a recreational vessel manufacturer to which this chapter applies, the Secretary may alter a model year for a model of recreational vessel of the manufacturer and associated equipment, by no more than 6 months from the model year described in paragraph (1).”.

(b) Application.—This section shall only apply with respect to recreational vessels and associated equipment constructed or manufactured, respectively, on or after June 1, 2015.

(c) Guidance.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall publish guidance to implement section 4302(d)(2) of title 46, United States Code.
SEC. 305. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL EXPIRATION

HARMONIZATION.

(a) In General.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process to harmonize the expiration dates of merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer endorsements for individuals applying to the Secretary for a new merchant mariner credential or for renewal of an existing merchant mariner credential.

(b) Requirements.—The Secretary shall ensure that the process established under subsection (a)—

(1) does not require an individual to renew a merchant mariner credential earlier than the date on which the individual’s current credential expires; and

(2) results in harmonization of expiration dates for merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer endorsements for all individuals by not later than 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Exception.—The process established under subsection (a) does not apply to individuals—

(1) holding a merchant mariner credential with—
(A) an active Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping endorsement; or

(B) Federal first-class pilot endorsement; or

(2) who have been issued a time-restricted medical certificate.

SEC. 306. MARINE EVENT SAFETY ZONES.

Section 6 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1225) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) MARINE EVENT SAFETY ZONES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall recover all costs the Coast Guard incurs to enforce a safety zone under this section if such safety zone is established for a marine event conducted under a permit or other authorization by the Coast Guard.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not recover costs under paragraph (1) from a State or local government.

“(3) TREATMENT OF RECOVERED COSTS.— Costs recovered by the Secretary under this subsection shall be credited to the appropriation for operating expenses of the Coast Guard.
“(4) Marine event defined.—In this section the term ‘marine event’ means a planned activity of limited duration that by its nature, circumstances, or location, will introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life on the navigable waters of the United States.”.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) Title 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 103, by striking “(33 U.S.C. 151).” and inserting “(33 U.S.C. 151(b)).”;

(2) in section 2118—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “title,” and inserting “subtitle,”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “title” and inserting “subtitle”;

(3) in the analysis for chapter 35—

(A) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 3507; and

(B) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 3508;

(4) in section 3715(a)(2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;
(5) in section 8103(b)(1)(A)(iii), by striking “Academy.” and inserting “Academy; and”; and

(6) in section 11113(c)(1)(A)(i), by striking “under this Act”;

(b) GENERAL BRIDGE STATUTES.—

(1) ACT OF MARCH 3, 1899.—The Act of March 3, 1899, popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1899, is amended—

(A) in section 9 (33 U.S.C. 401), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”; and

(B) in section 18 (33 U.S.C. 502), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

(2) ACT OF MARCH 23, 1906.—The Act of March 23, 1906, popularly known as the Bridge Act of 1906, is amended—

(A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 491), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”;

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(B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 494), by striking “Secretary of Homeland Security” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”; and

(C) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 495), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

(3) Act of August 18, 1894.—Section 5 of the Act entitled “An Act making appropriations for the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes”, approved August 18, 1894 (33 U.S.C. 499) is amended by striking “Secretary of Transportation” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

(4) Act of June 21, 1940.—The Act of June 21, 1940, popularly known as the Truman-Hobbs Act, is amended—

(A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 511), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”;
(B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 514), by strik-
ing “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting
“Secretary of the department in which the
Coast Guard is operating”;

(C) in section 7 (33 U.S.C. 517), by strik-
ing “Secretary of Transportation” each place it
appears and inserting “Secretary of the depart-
ment in which the Coast Guard is operating”;
and

(D) in section 13 (33 U.S.C. 523), by
striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
serting “Secretary of the department in which
the Coast Guard is operating”.

(5) General Bridge Act of 1946.—The Gen-
eral Bridge Act 1946 is amended—

(A) in section 502(b) (33 U.S.C. 525(b)),
by striking “Secretary of Transportation” and
inserting “Secretary of the department in which
the Coast Guard is operating”; and

(B) in section 510 (33 U.S.C. 533), by
striking “Secretary of Transportation” each
place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the
department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
ating”.

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(6) INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1972.—The International Bridge Act of 1972 is amended—

(A) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 535c), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”; and

(B) in section 8 (33 U.S.C. 535e), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

SEC. 308. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF MARINE CASUALTY REPORTING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the actions the Commandant will take to implement recommendations on improvements to the Coast Guard’s marine casualty reporting requirements and procedures included in—

in the United States Coast Guard”, released on May
23, 2013; and

(2) the Towing Safety Advisory Committee re-
port entitled “Recommendations for Improvement of
Marine Casualty Reporting”, released on March 26,
2015.

SEC. 309. RECREATIONAL VESSEL ENGINE WEIGHTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which
the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations
amending Table 4 to Subpart H of Part 183–Weights
(Pounds) of Outboard Motor and Related Equipment for
Various Boat Horsepower Ratings (33 C.F.R. 183) as ap-
propriate to reflect “Standard 30–Outboard Engine and
Related Equipment Weights” published by the American
Boat and Yacht Council, as in effect on the date of the
enactment of this Act.

SEC. 310. MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United
States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
lowing:

“§ 7509. Medical certification by trusted agents
“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
vision of law and pursuant to regulations prescribed by
the Secretary, a trusted agent may issue a medical certificate to an individual who—

“(1) must hold such certificate to qualify for a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner’s document, or endorsement thereto under this part; and

“(2) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and physical condition to perform the duties of such license, certificate, document, or endorsement, as determined by the trusted agent.

“(b) TRUSTED AGENT DEFINED.—In this section the term ‘trusted agent’ means a medical practitioner certified by the Secretary to perform physical examinations of an individual for purposes of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner’s document under this part.”.

(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue a final rule implementing section 7509 of title 46, United States Code, as added by this section.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“7509. Medical certification by trusted agents.”.

SEC. 311. ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.

Not later than April 1, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall conclude the Atlantic Coast Port Access
Route Study and submit the results of such study to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 312. CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations that—

(1) make certificates of documentation for recreational vessels effective for 5 years; and

(2) require the owner of such a vessel—

(A) to notify the Coast Guard of each change in the information on which the issuance of the certificate of documentation is based, that occurs before the expiration of the certificate; and

(B) apply for a new certificates of documentation for such a vessel if there is any such change.

SEC. 313. PROGRAM GUIDELINES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—
(1) develop guidelines to implement the pro-
gram authorized under section 304(a) of the Coast
Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006
(Public Law 109–241); and

(2) submit such guidelines to the Committee
Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME
COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 46, United
States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
lowing:

“§ 308. Authorization of appropriations

“There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fed-
eral Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for each of fiscal
years 2016 and 2017 for the activities of the Commission
authorized under this chapter and subtitle IV.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
ter 3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by add-
ing at the end the following:

“308. Authorization of appropriations.”.

SEC. 402. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Section 301(c)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code,
is amended—
(1) in clause (ii) by striking “units, but only after consultation with the other Commissioners;” and inserting “units (with such appointments subject to the approval of the Commission);”;

(2) in clause (iv) by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in clause (v) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(vi) prepare and submit to the President and Congress requests for appropriations for the Commission (with such requests subject to the approval of the Commission).”.

SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON AWARDS.

Section 307 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “The Federal Maritime Commission” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Maritime Commission”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Federal Maritime Commission may not expend any funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it to
issue an award, prize, commendation, or other honor to a non-Federal entity.”.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 501. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the covered property, upon payment to the United States of the fair market value of the covered property.

(b) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The County of Marin, California shall have the right of first refusal with respect to purchase of the covered property under this section.

(c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the covered property shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(d) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the covered property shall—

(1) be determined by appraisal; and

(2) be subject to the approval of the Commandant.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The responsibility for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, asso-
associated with a conveyance under this section shall be determined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under this section as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds received by the United States in a conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established by section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

(h) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered property” means the approximately 32 acres of real property (including all improvements located on the property) that are—

(1) located at Station Point Reyes in Marin County, California;

(2) under the administrative control of the Coast Guard; and

SEC. 502. ELIMINATION OF REPORTS.

(a) Distant Water Tuna Fleet.—Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(b) Annual Updates on Limits to Liability.—Section 603(c)(3) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 2704 note) is amended by striking “on an annual basis.” and inserting “not later than January 30 of the year following each year in which occurs an oil discharge from a vessel or nonvessel source that results or is likely to result in removal costs and damages (as those terms are defined in section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701)) that exceed liability limits established under section 1004 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2704).”.


SEC. 503. VESSEL DOCUMENTATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and infrastructure of the House and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a description of actions that could be taken to—
(1) improve the efficiency of performance of the functions currently carried out by the National Vessel Documentation Center, including by—

(A) transferring such functions to Coast Guard headquarters; and

(B) reassigning Coast Guard personnel to better meet the Coast Guard’s vessel documentation mission; and

(2) strengthen the review of compliance with United States ownership requirements for vessels documented under the laws of the United States.