

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1987

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2015

Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. DEFAZIO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, 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 “Coast Guard Author-
5 ization Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 101. Authorizations.

Sec. 102. Conforming amendments.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

- Sec. 201. Vice Commandant.
 Sec. 202. Vice admirals.
 Sec. 203. Coast Guard remission of indebtedness.
 Sec. 204. Acquisition reform.
 Sec. 205. Auxiliary jurisdiction.
 Sec. 206. Long-term major acquisitions plan.
 Sec. 207. Coast Guard communities.
 Sec. 208. “Polar Sea” materiel condition assessment and service life extension decision.
 Sec. 209. Repeal.
 Sec. 210. Technical corrections to title 14.
 Sec. 211. Digital boat profile pilot program.
 Sec. 212. Discontinuance of an aid to navigation.
 Sec. 213. Mission performance measures.
 Sec. 214. Communications.
 Sec. 215. Coast Guard graduate maritime operations education.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

- Sec. 301. Treatment of fishing permits.
 Sec. 302. Survival craft.
 Sec. 303. Enforcement.
 Sec. 304. Model years for recreational vessels.
 Sec. 305. Merchant mariner credential expiration harmonization.
 Sec. 306. Marine event safety zones.
 Sec. 307. Technical corrections.
 Sec. 308. Recommendations for improvements of marine casualty reporting.
 Sec. 309. Recreational vessel engine weights.
 Sec. 310. Merchant mariner medical certification reform.
 Sec. 311. Atlantic Coast port access route study.
 Sec. 312. Certificates of documentation for recreational vessels.
 Sec. 313. Program guidelines.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

- Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.
 Sec. 402. Duties of the Chairman.
 Sec. 403. Prohibition on awards.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 501. Conveyance of Coast Guard property in Marin County, California.
 Sec. 502. Elimination of reports.
 Sec. 503. Vessel documentation.

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:

1 **“PART III—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATIONS AND**
 2 **REPORTS TO CONGRESS**

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

3 **“CHAPTER 27—AUTHORIZATIONS**

“Sec.
“2702. Authorization of appropriations.
“2704. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

4 **“§ 2702. Authorization of appropriations**

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

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

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

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

13 “(2) For the acquisition, construction, renova-
 14 tion, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore
 15 facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment
 16 related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation,
 17 lease, and operation of facilities and equipment—

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

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

21 “(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, in-
 22 cluding operations and maintenance of the program,

1 personnel and training costs, equipment, and serv-
2 ices—

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

4 and

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

6 “(4) For the environmental compliance and res-
7 toration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter
8 19 of this title—

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

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

11 “(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard
12 for research, development, test, and evaluation of
13 technologies, materials, and human factors directly
14 related to improving the performance of the Coast
15 Guard’s mission with respect to search and rescue,
16 aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environ-
17 mental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties,
18 ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense
19 readiness, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease,
20 and operation of facilities and equipment—

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

22 “(B) \$19,890,000 for fiscal year 2017.

1 **“§ 2704. Authorized levels of military strength and**
2 **training**

3 “(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is
4 authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty per-
5 sonnel of 43,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

6 “(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The
7 Coast Guard is authorized average military training stu-
8 dent loads for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 as fol-
9 lows:

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

12 “(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

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

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

17 **“CHAPTER 29—REPORTS**

“Sec.

“2904. Manpower requirements plan.

18 **“§ 2904. Manpower requirements plan**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the Presi-
20 dent submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017
21 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the
22 President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year
23 2019 under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the
24 Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-

1 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
2 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
3 tation of the Senate a manpower requirements plan.

4 “(b) SCOPE.—A manpower requirements plan sub-
5 mitted under subsection (a) shall include for each mission
6 of the Coast Guard—

7 “(1) an assessment of all projected mission re-
8 quirements for the upcoming fiscal year and for each
9 of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

10 “(2) the number of active duty, reserve, and ci-
11 vilian personnel assigned or available to fulfill such
12 mission requirements—

13 “(A) currently; and

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

16 “(3) the number of active duty, reserve, and ci-
17 vilian personnel required to fulfill such mission re-
18 quirements—

19 “(A) currently; and

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

22 “(4) an identification of any capability gaps be-
23 tween mission requirements and mission perform-
24 ance caused by deficiencies in the numbers of per-
25 sonnel available—

1 “(A) currently; and

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

5 “(5) an identification of the actions the Com-
6 mandant will take to address capability gaps identi-
7 fied under paragraph (4).

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

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

13 “(2) information on the adequacy of the acqui-
14 sition workforce included in the most recent report
15 under section 2903 of this title; and

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

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

21 (1) by redesignating such section as section
22 2701;

23 (2) by transferring such section to appear be-
24 fore section 2702 of such title (as added by sub-
25 section (a) of this section); and

1 (3) by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and
2 inserting the following:

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

5 “(2) For the acquisition, construction, renova-
6 tion, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore
7 facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment
8 related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation,
9 lease, and operation of facilities and equipment.

10 “(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, in-
11 cluding operations and maintenance of the program,
12 personnel and training costs, equipment, and serv-
13 ices.

14 “(4) For the environmental compliance and res-
15 toration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter
16 19 of this title.

17 “(5) For research, development, test, and eval-
18 uation of technologies, materials, and human factors
19 directly related to improving the performance of the
20 Coast Guard’s mission with respect to search and
21 rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine en-
22 vironmental protection, enforcement of laws and
23 treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and
24 defense readiness, and for maintenance, rehabilita-
25 tion, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment.

1 “(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over
2 navigable waters of the United States constituting
3 obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and
4 administrative costs associated with the Alteration of
5 Bridges Program.”.

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

9 (1) by redesignating such section as section
10 2703; and

11 (2) by transferring such section to appear be-
12 fore section 2704 of such title (as added by sub-
13 section (a) of this section).

14 (d) REPORTS.—

15 (1) TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD
16 AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.—Section 662a of title
17 14, United States Code, is amended—

18 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
19 tion 2901;

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

23 (C) in subsection (b)—

1 (i) in paragraph (1) by striking “de-
2 scribed in section 661” and inserting “de-
3 scribed in section 2703”; and

4 (ii) in paragraph (2) by striking “de-
5 scribed in section 662” and inserting “de-
6 scribed in section 2701”.

7 (2) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section 663
8 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

9 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
10 tion 2902; and

11 (B) by transferring such section to appear
12 after section 2901 of such title (as so redesign-
13 ated and transferred by paragraph (1) of this
14 subsection).

15 (3) MAJOR ACQUISITIONS.—Section 569a of
16 title 14, United States Code, is amended—

17 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
18 tion 2903;

19 (B) by transferring such section to appear
20 after section 2902 of such title (as so redesign-
21 ated and transferred by paragraph (2) of this
22 subsection); and

23 (C) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “of this
24 subchapter”.

1 (e) ICEBREAKING ON THE GREAT LAKES.—For fiscal
 2 years 2016 and 2017, the Commandant of the Coast
 3 Guard may use funds made available pursuant to section
 4 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code (as added by sub-
 5 section (a) of this section) for the selection of a design
 6 for and the construction of an icebreaker that is capable
 7 of buoy tending to enhance icebreaking capacity on the
 8 Great Lakes.

9 **SEC. 102. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

10 (a) ANALYSIS FOR TITLE 14.—The analysis for title
 11 14, United States Code, is amended by adding after the
 12 item relating to part II the following:

**“III. Coast Guard Authorizations and Reports to Con-
 gress 2701”.**

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

16 (c) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for
 17 chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended
 18 by striking the items relating to sections 661, 662, 662a,
 19 and 663.

20 (d) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 27.—The analysis for
 21 chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, as added by
 22 section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting—

1 (1) before the item relating to section 2702 the
2 following:

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

3 and

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

“2703. Authorization of personnel end strengths.”.

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

“2901. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.

“2902. Capital investment plan.

“2903. Major acquisitions.”.

10 (f) MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—Section 569(b) of
11 title 14, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “in section
13 569a(e)” and inserting “in section 2903”; and

14 (2) in paragraph (3) by striking “under section
15 663(a)(1)” and inserting “under section
16 2902(a)(1)”.

17 **TITLE II—COAST GUARD**

18 **SEC. 201. VICE COMMANDANT.**

19 (a) GRADES AND RATINGS.—Section 41 of title 14,
20 United States Code, is amended by striking “an admiral,”
21 and inserting “admirals (two);”.

1 (b) VICE COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.—Section 47
2 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking
3 “vice admiral” and inserting “admiral”.

4 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 51 of title
5 14, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

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

12 (d) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
13 sion of law, the officer who, on the date of the enactment
14 of this Act, is serving as Vice Commandant of the Coast
15 Guard—

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

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

21 **SEC. 202. VICE ADMIRALS.**

22 Section 50 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
23 ed—

24 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(1) The President may—

4 “(A) designate, within the Coast Guard, no
5 more than 5 positions of importance and responsi-
6 bility that shall be held by officers who, while so
7 serving, shall have the grade of vice admiral, with
8 the pay and allowances of that grade, and shall per-
9 form such duties as the Commandant may prescribe
10 (if the President designates 5 such positions, 1 posi-
11 tion shall be a Chief of Staff); and

12 “(B) designate, within the executive branch,
13 other than within the Coast Guard, positions of im-
14 portance and responsibility that shall be held by offi-
15 cers who, while so serving, shall have the grade of
16 vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that
17 grade.”; and

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

21 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

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

24 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
25 subparagraph (D); and

1 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
2 the following:

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

8 **SEC. 203. COAST GUARD REMISSION OF INDEBTEDNESS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 461 of title 14, United
10 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

11 **“§ 461. Remission of indebtedness**

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

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

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

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
22 ter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by
23 striking the item relating to section 461 and inserting the
24 following:

“461. Remission of indebtedness.”.

1 **SEC. 204. ACQUISITION REFORM.**

2 (a) **MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**—Section
3 572(d)(3) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

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

6 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
7 paragraph (C);

8 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(B) the performance data to be used to
11 determine whether the key performance param-
12 eters have been resolved;” and

13 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C), as re-
14 designated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the
15 following:

16 “(D) the results during test and evaluation
17 that will be required to demonstrate that a ca-
18 pability, asset, or subsystem meets performance
19 requirements;”.

20 (b) **CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.**—Section
21 2902(a)(1) of title 14, United States Code, as redesi-
22 gnated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further
23 amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (B) by striking “comple-
25 tion;” and inserting “completion based on the pro-
26 posed appropriations included in the budget;” and

1 (2) in subparagraph (D) by striking “at the
2 projected funding levels;” and inserting “based on
3 the proposed appropriations included in the bud-
4 get;”.

5 (c) DAYS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT.—Not later than
6 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

8 (1) implement a standard for tracking oper-
9 ational days at sea for Coast Guard cutters that
10 does not include days during which such cutters are
11 undergoing maintenance or repair; and

12 (2) notify the Committee on Transportation
13 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
14 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
15 Transportation of the Senate of the standard imple-
16 mented under paragraph (1).

17 (d) FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FLEET MIX ANALYSIS.—
18 Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commandant of
19 the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Trans-
20 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
21 tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
22 Transportation of the Senate a revised fleet mix analysis
23 of Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft.

1 **SEC. 205. AUXILIARY JURISDICTION.**

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

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

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(b) LIMITATION.—The Auxiliary may conduct a pa-
9 trol of a waterway, or a portion thereof, only if—

10 “(1) the Commandant has determined such wa-
11 terway, or portion thereof, is navigable for purposes
12 of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard; or

13 “(2) a State or other proper authority has re-
14 quested such patrol pursuant to section 141 of this
15 title or section 13109 of title 46.”.

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

18 (1) review the waterways patrolled by the Coast
19 Guard Auxiliary in the most recently completed fis-
20 cal year to determine whether such waterways are
21 eligible or ineligible for patrol under section 822(b)
22 of title 14, United States Code (as added by sub-
23 section (a)); and

24 (2) not later than 180 days after the date of
25 the enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee
26 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House

1 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
2 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written
3 notification of—

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

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

9 **SEC. 206. LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.**

10 Section 2903 of title 14, United States Code, as re-
11 designated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further
12 amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
14 section (f); and

15 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—
18 Each report under subsection (a) shall include a plan that
19 describes for the upcoming fiscal year, and for each of the
20 20 fiscal years thereafter—

21 “(1) the numbers and types of cutters and air-
22 craft to be decommissioned;

23 “(2) the numbers and types of cutters and air-
24 craft to be acquired to—

1 “(A) replace the cutters and aircraft iden-
2 tified under paragraph (1); or

3 “(B) address an identified capability gap;
4 and

5 “(3) the estimated level of funding in each fis-
6 cal year required to—

7 “(A) acquire the cutters and aircraft iden-
8 tified under paragraph (2);

9 “(B) acquire related command, control,
10 communications, computer, intelligence, surveil-
11 lance, and reconnaissance systems; and

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

14 **SEC. 207. COAST GUARD COMMUNITIES.**

15 Section 409 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act
16 of 1998 (14 U.S.C. 639 note) is amended by striking the
17 second sentence and inserting the following: “The Com-
18 mandant may recognize any other community in a similar
19 manner if the Commandant determines that such commu-
20 nity has demonstrated enduring support of the Coast
21 Guard, Coast Guard personnel, and the dependents of
22 Coast Guard personnel.”.

1 **SEC. 208. “POLAR SEA” MATERIEL CONDITION ASSESSMENT**
2 **AND SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION DECISION.**

3 Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Trans-
4 portation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat.
5 1560) is amended—

6 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after
9 the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authoriza-
10 tion Act of 2015, the Secretary of the department in which
11 the Coast Guard is operating shall—

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

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

19 “(3) submit to the Committee on Transpor-
20 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Represent-
21 atives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
22 and Transportation of the Senate—

23 “(A) the assessment required under para-
24 graph (1); and

25 “(B) written notification of the determina-
26 tion required under paragraph (2).”;

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

3 (3) by striking subsection (c);

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

6 (5) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by para-
7 graph (4) of this section)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

11 (ii) in subparagraph (C) by striking
12 “analysis” and inserting “written notifica-
13 tion”;

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

16 “(2) DECOMMISSIONING.—If the Secretary
17 makes a determination under subsection (a) that it
18 is not cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea,
19 then, not later than 180 days after written notifica-
20 tion of that determination is submitted under that
21 subsection, the Commandant of the Coast Guard
22 may decommission the Polar Sea.”; and

23 (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
24 follows:

1 (3) in section 47 in the section heading by
2 striking “**commandant**” and inserting “**Com-**
3 **mandant**”;

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

6 “(2) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may
7 lease submerged lands and tidelands under para-
8 graph (1) only if—

9 “(A) the lease is for cash exclusively;

10 “(B) the lease amount is equal to the fair
11 market value of the use of the leased sub-
12 merged lands or tidelands for the period during
13 which such lands are leased, as determined by
14 the Commandant;

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

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

23 (5) in the analysis for chapter 9 by striking the
24 item relating to section 199 and inserting the fol-
25 lowing:

“199. Marine safety curriculum.”;

1 (6) in section 427(b)(2) by striking “this chap-
2 ter” and inserting “chapter 61 of title 10”;

3 (7) in the analysis for chapter 15 before the
4 item relating to section 571 by striking the fol-
5 lowing:

“Sec.”;

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

9 (9) in section 581(5)(B) by striking
10 “\$300,000,0000,” and inserting “\$300,000,000,”;

11 (10) in section 637(c)(3) in the matter pre-
12 ceding subparagraph (A) by inserting “it is” before
13 “any”;

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

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

18 (13) in the analysis for chapter 21—

19 (A) by striking the item relating to section
20 709 and inserting the following:

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

21 and

1 (B) by striking the item relating to section
2 740 and inserting the following:

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

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

5 (15) in section 821(b)(1) by striking “Chapter
6 26” and inserting “Chapter 171”; and

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

9 **SEC. 211. DIGITAL BOAT PROFILE PILOT PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—If, during the 1-year period begin-
11 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard is op-
13 erating determines that there are at least 2 digital boat
14 profile technologies that are commercially available, the
15 Secretary shall establish a pilot program, in accordance
16 with this section, under which digital boat profiles are uti-
17 lized for—

18 (1) not less than 2 National Security Cutters;

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

20 (3) not less than 4 Medium Endurance Cutters
21 (270 foot).

22 (b) TIMING.—With respect to the National Security
23 Cutters and Fast Response Cutters participating in the
24 pilot program, a digital boat profile shall be established
25 prior to the commissioning of the cutters.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the estab-
2 lishment of the pilot program, and annually thereafter for
3 the succeeding 4 years, the Secretary of the department
4 in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the
5 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
6 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
7 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
8 describing—

9 (1) the implementation of the pilot program;
10 and

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

13 (A) efficient maintenance of the cutters in-
14 volved; and

15 (B) the post-delivery warranty manage-
16 ment of equipment items, the repair and re-
17 placement of which are contractually obligated.

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

22 (1) provides lifecycle management support, in-
23 cluding through the incorporation of systems manu-
24 als, schematics, and vessel documentation;

1 (2) incorporates all manufacturer recommenda-
2 tions and operator best practices;

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

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

10 (5) facilitates oversight for pre-delivery discrep-
11 ancy reporting and post-delivery warranty manage-
12 ment of equipment items, the repair and replace-
13 ment of which are contractually obligated; and

14 (6) is accessible by computing devices.

15 **SEC. 212. DISCONTINUANCE OF AN AID TO NAVIGATION.**

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

22 (b) **REQUIREMENT.**—The process established under
23 subsection (a) shall include procedures to notify the public
24 of any discontinuance of an aid to navigation described
25 in that subsection.

1 (c) CONSULTATION.—In establishing a process under
2 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with and con-
3 sider any recommendations of the Navigation Safety Advi-
4 sory Council.

5 (d) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after es-
6 tablishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary
7 shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
8 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
9 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
10 Senate of the process established.

11 **SEC. 213. MISSION PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

12 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
13 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
14 shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and In-
15 frastructure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
16 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
17 Senate an assessment of the efficacy of the Coast Guard’s
18 Standard Operational Planning Process with respect to
19 annual mission performance measures.

20 **SEC. 214. COMMUNICATIONS.**

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

1 (1) provides for—

2 (A) multiagency collaboration and inter-
3 operability; and

4 (B) wide-area, secure, and peer-invitation-
5 and-acceptance-based multimedia communica-
6 tions;

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

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

11 (b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
13 for the succeeding 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to
14 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
15 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
16 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an as-
17 sessment of the pilot program, including the impacts of
18 the program with respect to interagency and Coast Guard
19 response capabilities.

20 **SEC. 215. COAST GUARD GRADUATE MARITIME OPER-**
21 **ATIONS EDUCATION.**

22 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
23 of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the
24 Coast Guard is operating shall establish an education pro-

1 gram, for members and employees of the Coast Guard,
2 that—

3 (1) offers a master’s degree in maritime oper-
4 ations;

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

7 (3) provides resident and distant education op-
8 tions, including the ability to utilize both options;
9 and

10 (4) to the greatest extent practicable, is con-
11 ducted using existing academic programs at an ac-
12 credited public academic institution that—

13 (A) is located near a significant number of
14 Coast Guard, maritime, and other Department
15 of Homeland Security law enforcement per-
16 sonnel; and

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

19 **TITLE III—SHIPPING AND** 20 **NAVIGATION**

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

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 313 of
23 title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
24 end the following:

1 **“§ 31310. Treatment of fishing permits**

2 “(a) LIMITATION ON MARITIME LIENS.—This chap-
3 ter—

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

6 “(2) does not authorize any civil action to en-
7 force a maritime lien on a fishing permit.

8 “(b) TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS UNDER
9 STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.—A fishing permit—

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

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

15 “(c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE NOT
16 AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as
17 imposing any limitation upon the authority of the Sec-
18 retary of Commerce—

19 “(1) to modify, suspend, revoke, or impose a
20 sanction on any fishing permit issued by the Sec-
21 retary of Commerce; or

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

24 “(d) FISHING PERMIT DEFINED.—In this section the
25 term ‘fishing permit’ means any authorization of a person

1 or vessel to engage in fishing that is issued under State
2 or Federal law.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
5 after the item relating to section 31309 the following:

“31310. Treatment of fishing permits.”.

6 **SEC. 302. SURVIVAL CRAFT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104 of title 46, United
8 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 **“§ 3104. Survival craft**

10 “(a) REQUIREMENT TO EQUIP.—The Secretary shall
11 require that a passenger vessel be equipped with survival
12 craft that ensures that no part of an individual is im-
13 mersed in water, if—

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

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

18 “(b) HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY.—The Sec-
19 retary may revise part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code
20 of Federal Regulations, as in effect before January 1,
21 2016, if such revision provides a higher standard of safety
22 than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before
23 the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authoriza-
24 tion Act of 2015.

1 “(c) INNOVATIVE AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Sec-
2 retary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part
3 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations,
4 as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast
5 Guard Authorization Act of 2015, allow a passenger vessel
6 to be equipped with a life saving appliance or arrangement
7 of an innovative or novel design that—

8 “(1) ensures no part of an individual is im-
9 mersed in water; and

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

13 “(d) BUILT DEFINED.—In this section, the term
14 ‘built’ has the meaning that term has under section
15 4503(e).”.

16 (b) REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—

17 (1) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31,
18 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the
19 Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Com-
20 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
21 House of Representatives and the Committee on
22 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
23 ate a review of—

24 (A) the number of casualties for individ-
25 uals with disabilities, children, and the elderly

1 as a result of immersion in water, reported to
2 the Coast Guard over the preceding 30-year pe-
3 riod, by vessel type and area of operation;

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

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

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

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

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

22 (D) the efficacy of alternative safety sys-
23 tems, devices, or measures in improving surviv-
24 ability of individuals with disabilities, children,
25 and the elderly; and

1 (E) the number of small businesses and
2 nonprofit vessel operators that would be af-
3 fected by requiring the carriage of such survival
4 craft on passenger vessels to address the risks
5 to individuals with disabilities, children, and the
6 elderly.

7 (2) REVISION.—Based on the review conducted
8 under paragraph (1), the Secretary may revise regu-
9 lations concerning the carriage of survival craft pur-
10 suant to section 3104(c) of title 46, United States
11 Code.

12 **SEC. 303. ENFORCEMENT.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 55305(d) of title 46,
14 United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
16 lows:

17 “(1) Each department or agency that has re-
18 sponsibility for a program under this section shall
19 administer that program consistent with this section
20 and any regulations and guidance issued by the Sec-
21 retary of Transportation concerning this section.”;

22 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
23 graph (3), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the
24 following:

1 “(2)(A) The Secretary, after consulting with
2 the department, agency, organization, or person in-
3 volved, shall have exclusive authority for determining
4 the applicability of this section to a program of a
5 Federal department or agency, after consulting with
6 the department, agency, organization, or person in-
7 volved.

8 “(B) The head of a Federal department or
9 agency shall request the Secretary to determine the
10 applicability of this section to a program of such de-
11 partment or agency if the department or agency is
12 uncertain of such applicability. Not later than 30
13 days after receiving such a request, the Secretary
14 shall make such determination.

15 “(C) Subparagraph (B) shall not be construed
16 to limit the authority of the Secretary to make a de-
17 termination regarding the applicability of this sec-
18 tion to a program administered by a Federal depart-
19 ment or agency.

20 “(D) A determination made by the Secretary
21 under this paragraph regarding a program shall re-
22 main in effect until the Secretary determines that
23 this section no longer applies to such program.”;

24 (3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by
25 amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

1 “(A) shall conduct an annual review of the
2 administration of programs subject to the re-
3 quirements of this section to determine compli-
4 ance with the requirements of this section;”;
5 and

6 (4) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(4) On the date on which the President sub-
8 mits to Congress a budget pursuant to section 1105
9 of title 31, the Secretary shall make available on the
10 Internet website of the Department of Transpor-
11 tation a report that—

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

15 “(B) describes the results of the most re-
16 cent annual review required by paragraph
17 (3)(A), including identification of the depart-
18 ments and agencies that transported cargo in
19 violation of this section and any action the Sec-
20 retary took under paragraph (3) with respect to
21 each violation.”.

22 (b) DEADLINE FOR FIRST REVIEW.—The Secretary
23 of Transportation shall complete the first review required
24 under the amendment made by subsection (a)(1)(C) by
25 not later than December 31, 2015.

1 **SEC. 304. MODEL YEARS FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4302 of title 46, United
3 States Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

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

9 “(A) begin on June 1 of a year and end on July
10 31 of the following year; and

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

12 “(2) Upon the request of a recreational vessel manu-
13 facturer to which this chapter applies, the Secretary may
14 alter a model year for a model of recreational vessel of
15 the manufacturer and associated equipment, by no more
16 than 6 months from the model year described in para-
17 graph (1).”.

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

22 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
24 department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
25 publish guidance to implement section 4302(d)(2) of title
26 46, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 305. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL EXPIRATION**
2 **HARMONIZATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
4 (c) and not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which
6 the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process to
7 harmonize the expiration dates of merchant mariner cre-
8 dentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer
9 endorsements for individuals applying to the Secretary for
10 a new merchant mariner credential or for renewal of an
11 existing merchant mariner credential.

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

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

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

22 (c) EXCEPTION.—The process established under sub-
23 section (a) does not apply to individuals—

24 (1) holding a merchant mariner credential
25 with—

1 (A) an active Standards of Training, Cer-
2 tification, and Watchkeeping endorsement; or

3 (B) Federal first-class pilot endorsement;

4 or

5 (2) who have been issued a time-restricted med-
6 ical certificate.

7 **SEC. 306. MARINE EVENT SAFETY ZONES.**

8 Section 6 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act of
9 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1225) is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

11 “(c) MARINE EVENT SAFETY ZONES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
13 graph (2), the Secretary shall recover all costs the
14 Coast Guard incurs to enforce a safety zone under
15 this section if such safety zone is established for a
16 marine event conducted under a permit or other au-
17 thorization by the Coast Guard.

18 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not re-
19 cover costs under paragraph (1) from a State or
20 local government.

21 “(3) TREATMENT OF RECOVERED COSTS.—
22 Costs recovered by the Secretary under this sub-
23 section shall be credited to the appropriation for op-
24 erating expenses of the Coast Guard.

1 “(4) MARINE EVENT DEFINED.—In this section
2 the term ‘marine event’ means a planned activity of
3 limited duration that by its nature, circumstances,
4 or location, will introduce extra or unusual hazards
5 to the safety of life on the navigable waters of the
6 United States.”.

7 **SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

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

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

12 (2) in section 2118—

13 (A) in subsection (a), in the matter pre-
14 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “title,” and
15 inserting “subtitle,”; and

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

18 (3) in the analysis for chapter 35—

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

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

23 (4) in section 3715(a)(2), by striking “; and”
24 and inserting a semicolon;

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

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

5 (b) GENERAL BRIDGE STATUTES.—

6 (1) ACT OF MARCH 3, 1899.—The Act of March
7 3, 1899, popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors
8 Appropriations Act of 1899, is amended—

9 (A) in section 9 (33 U.S.C. 401), by strik-
10 ing “Secretary of Transportation” each place it
11 appears and inserting “Secretary of the depart-
12 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating”;
13 and

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

19 (2) ACT OF MARCH 23, 1906.—The Act of March
20 23, 1906, popularly known as the Bridge Act of
21 1906, is amended—

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

1 (B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 494), by strik-
2 ing “Secretary of Homeland Security” each
3 place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the
4 department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
5 ating”; and

6 (C) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 495), by strik-
7 ing “Secretary of Transportation” each place it
8 appears and inserting “Secretary of the depart-
9 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

10 (3) ACT OF AUGUST 18, 1894.—Section 5 of the
11 Act entitled “An Act making appropriations for the
12 construction, repair, and preservation of certain pub-
13 lic works on rivers and harbors, and for other pur-
14 poses”, approved August 18, 1894 (33 U.S.C. 499)
15 is amended by striking “Secretary of Transpor-
16 tation” each place it appears and inserting “Sec-
17 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard
18 is operating”.

19 (4) ACT OF JUNE 21, 1940.—The Act of June
20 21, 1940, popularly known as the Truman-Hobbs
21 Act, is amended—

22 (A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 511), by
23 striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
24 serting “Secretary of the department in which
25 the Coast Guard is operating”;

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

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

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

14 (5) GENERAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1946.—The Gen-
15 eral Bridge Act 1946 is amended—

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

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

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 308. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF MA-**
13 **RINE CASUALTY REPORTING.**

14 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard
16 shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
17 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
18 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
19 Senate of the actions the Commandant will take to imple-
20 ment recommendations on improvements to the Coast
21 Guard’s marine casualty reporting requirements and pro-
22 cedures included in—

23 (1) the Department of Homeland Security Of-
24 fice of Inspector General report entitled “Marine Ac-
25 cident Reporting, Investigations, and Enforcement

1 in the United States Coast Guard”, released on May
2 23, 2013; and

3 (2) the Towing Safety Advisory Committee re-
4 port entitled “Recommendations for Improvement of
5 Marine Casualty Reporting”, released on March 26,
6 2015.

7 **SEC. 309. RECREATIONAL VESSEL ENGINE WEIGHTS.**

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

18 **SEC. 310. MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION**

19 **REFORM.**

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

23 **“§ 7509. Medical certification by trusted agents**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
25 vision of law and pursuant to regulations prescribed by

1 the Secretary, a trusted agent may issue a medical certifi-
 2 cate to an individual who—

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

7 “(2) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and phys-
 8 ical condition to perform the duties of such license,
 9 certificate, document, or endorsement, as determined
 10 by the trusted agent.

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

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

21 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such
 22 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:
 “7509. Medical certification by trusted agents.”.

23 **SEC. 311. ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.**

24 Not later than April 1, 2016, the Commandant of the
 25 Coast Guard shall conclude the Atlantic Coast Port Access

1 Route Study and submit the results of such study to the
2 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
3 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
4 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

5 **SEC. 312. CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR REC-**
6 **REATIONAL VESSELS.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department in
9 which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations
10 that—

11 (1) make certificates of documentation for rec-
12 reational vessels effective for 5 years; and

13 (2) require the owner of such a vessel—

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

19 (B) apply for a new certificates of docu-
20 mentation for such a vessel if there is any such
21 change.

22 **SEC. 313. PROGRAM GUIDELINES.**

23 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
24 ment this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

1 (1) develop guidelines to implement the pro-
2 gram authorized under section 304(a) of the Coast
3 Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006
4 (Public Law 109–241); and

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

9 **TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME**
10 **COMMISSION**

11 **SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

15 **“§ 308. Authorization of appropriations**

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

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

“308. Authorization of appropriations.”.

23 **SEC. 402. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN.**

24 Section 301(c)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code,
25 is amended—

1 (1) in clause (ii) by striking “units, but only
2 after consultation with the other Commissioners;”
3 and inserting “units (with such appointments sub-
4 ject to the approval of the Commission);”;

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

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

8 (4) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(vi) prepare and submit to the Presi-
10 dent and Congress requests for appropria-
11 tions for the Commission (with such re-
12 quests subject to the approval of the Com-
13 mission).”.

14 **SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON AWARDS.**

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

17 (1) by striking “The Federal Maritime Commis-
18 sion” and inserting the following:

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Maritime Commis-
20 sion”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
23 the Federal Maritime Commission may not expend any
24 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it to

1 issue an award, prize, commendation, or other honor to
2 a non-Federal entity.”.

3 **TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS**

4 **SEC. 501. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN** 5 **MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.**

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

11 (b) **RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.**—The County of
12 Marin, California shall have the right of first refusal with
13 respect to purchase of the covered property under this sec-
14 tion.

15 (c) **SURVEY.**—The exact acreage and legal descrip-
16 tion of the covered property shall be determined by a sur-
17 vey satisfactory to the Commandant.

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

20 (1) be determined by appraisal; and

21 (2) be subject to the approval of the Com-
22 mandant.

23 (e) **COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—The responsibility for
24 all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate
25 transaction and environmental documentation costs, asso-

1 ciated with a conveyance under this section shall be deter-
2 mined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

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

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

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

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

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

20 (3) described as “Parcel A, Tract 1”, “Parcel
21 B, Tract 2”, “Parcel C”, and “Parcel D” in the
22 Declaration of Taking (Civil No. C-71-1245 SC)
23 filed June 28, 1971, in the United States District
24 Court for the Northern District of California.

1 **SEC. 502. ELIMINATION OF REPORTS.**

2 (a) DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.—Section 421 of
3 the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of
4 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended by striking sub-
5 section (d).

6 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES ON LIMITS TO LIABILITY.—
7 Section 603(c)(3) of the Coast Guard and Maritime
8 Transportation Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 2704 note) is
9 amended by striking “on an annual basis.” and inserting
10 “not later than January 30 of the year following each year
11 in which occurs an oil discharge from a vessel or nonvessel
12 source that results or is likely to result in removal costs
13 and damages (as those terms are defined in section 1001
14 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701)) that
15 exceed liability limits established under section 1004 of the
16 Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2704).”.

17 (c) INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1972.—The
18 International Bridge Act of 1972 is amended by striking
19 section 11 (33 U.S.C. 535h).

20 **SEC. 503. VESSEL DOCUMENTATION.**

21 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
22 ment this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
23 States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
24 and infrastructure of the House and the Committee on
25 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a
26 description of actions that could be taken to—

- 1 (1) improve the efficiency of performance of the
2 functions currently carried out by the National Ves-
3 sel Documentation Center, including by—
- 4 (A) transferring such functions to Coast
5 Guard headquarters; and
- 6 (B) reassigning Coast Guard personnel to
7 better meet the Coast Guard’s vessel docu-
8 mentation mission; and
- 9 (2) strengthen the review of compliance with
10 United States ownership requirements for vessels
11 documented under the laws of the United States.

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