

Union Calendar No. 81

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1987

[Report No. 114–115]

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

MAY 15, 2015

Additional sponsor: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida

MAY 15, 2015

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 23, 2015]

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 Authoriza-*
 5 *tion 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 de-
cision.

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.

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TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 402. Duties of the Chairman.

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TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 501. Conveyance of Coast Guard property in Marin County, California.

Sec. 502. Elimination of reports.

Sec. 503. Vessel documentation.

Sec. 504. Conveyance of Coast Guard property in Tok, Alaska.

Sec. 505. Safe vessel operation in the Great Lakes.

Sec. 506. Use of vessel sale proceeds.

Sec. 507. Fishing vessel and fish tender vessel certification.

Sec. 508. National Academy of Sciences cost comparison.

Sec. 509. Penalty wages.

Sec. 510. Recourse for noncitizens.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART III—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATIONS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS

<i>“Chap.</i>	<i>Sec.</i>
“27. Authorizations	2701
“29. Reports	2901.

“CHAPTER 27—AUTHORIZATIONS

“Sec.

“2702. Authorization of appropriations.

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

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

4 *and*

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

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

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

12 *and*

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

14 “(3) *For the Coast Guard Reserve program, in-*
15 *cluding operations and maintenance of the program,*
16 *personnel and training costs, equipment, and serv-*
17 *ices—*

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

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

20 “(4) *For the environmental compliance and res-*
21 *toration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter*
22 *19 of this title—*

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

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

1 “(5) *To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for*
 2 *research, development, test, and evaluation of tech-*
 3 *nologies, materials, and human factors directly re-*
 4 *lated to improving the performance of the Coast*
 5 *Guard’s mission with respect to search and rescue,*
 6 *aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environ-*
 7 *mental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties,*
 8 *ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense*
 9 *readiness, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease,*
 10 *and operation of facilities and equipment—*

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

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

13 **“§2704. Authorized levels of military strength and**
 14 **training**

15 “(a) *ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is*
 16 *authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel*
 17 *of 43,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.*

18 “(b) *MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The*
 19 *Coast Guard is authorized average military training stu-*
 20 *dent loads for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 as follows:*

21 “(1) *For recruit and special training, 2,500 stu-*
 22 *dent years.*

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

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

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

2 **“CHAPTER 29—REPORTS**

“Sec.

“2904. Manpower requirements plan.

3 **“§ 2904. Manpower requirements plan**

4 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the Presi-*
 5 *dent submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017*
 6 *under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the*
 7 *President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019*
 8 *under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Com-*
 9 *mandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation*
 10 *and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the*
 11 *Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of*
 12 *the Senate a manpower requirements plan.*

13 “(b) *SCOPE.—A manpower requirements plan sub-*
 14 *mitted under subsection (a) shall include for each mission*
 15 *of the Coast Guard—*

16 “(1) *an assessment of all projected mission re-*
 17 *quirements for the upcoming fiscal year and for each*
 18 *of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;*

19 “(2) *the number of active duty, reserve, and ci-*
 20 *vilian personnel assigned or available to fulfill such*
 21 *mission requirements—*

22 “(A) *currently; and*

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

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

4 “(A) currently; and

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

7 “(4) an identification of any capability gaps be-
8 tween mission requirements and mission performance
9 caused by deficiencies in the numbers of personnel
10 available—

11 “(A) currently; and

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

14 and

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

18 “(c) CONSIDERATION.—In composing a manpower re-
19 quirements plan for submission under subsection (a), the
20 Commandant shall consider—

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

23 “(2) information on the adequacy of the acquisi-
24 tion workforce included in the most recent report
25 under section 2903 of this title; and

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

3 (b) *REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF AP-*
4 *PROPRIATIONS.—Section 662 of title 14, United States*
5 *Code, is amended—*

6 (1) *by redesignating such section as section 2701;*

7 (2) *by transferring such section to appear before*
8 *section 2702 of such title (as added by subsection (a)*
9 *of this section); and*

10 (3) *by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and*
11 *inserting the following:*

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

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

19 “(3) *For the Coast Guard Reserve program, in-*
20 *cluding operations and maintenance of the program,*
21 *personnel and training costs, equipment, and services.*

22 “(4) *For the environmental compliance and res-*
23 *toration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter*
24 *19 of this title.*

1 “(5) *For research, development, test, and evalua-*
 2 *tion of technologies, materials, and human factors di-*
 3 *rectly related to improving the performance of the*
 4 *Coast Guard.*

5 “(6) *For alteration or removal of bridges over*
 6 *navigable waters of the United States constituting ob-*
 7 *structions to navigation, and for personnel and ad-*
 8 *ministrative costs associated with the Alteration of*
 9 *Bridges Program.”.*

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

13 (1) *by redesignating such section as section 2703;*
 14 *and*

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

18 (d) *REPORTS.—*

19 (1) *TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AU-*
 20 *THORIZATION REQUEST.—Section 662a of title 14,*
 21 *United States Code, is amended—*

22 (A) *by redesignating such section as section*
 23 *2901;*

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

4 (C) in subsection (b)—

5 (i) in paragraph (1) by striking “de-
 6 scribed in section 661” and inserting “de-
 7 scribed in section 2703”; and

8 (ii) in paragraph (2) by striking “de-
 9 scribed in section 662” and inserting “de-
 10 scribed in section 2701”.

11 (2) *CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN*.—Section 663 of
 12 title 14, United States Code, is amended—

13 (A) by redesignating such section as section
 14 2902; and

15 (B) by transferring such section to appear
 16 after section 2901 of such title (as so redesign-
 17 ated and transferred by paragraph (1) of this
 18 subsection).

19 (3) *MAJOR ACQUISITIONS*.—Section 569a of title
 20 14, United States Code, is amended—

21 (A) by redesignating such section as section
 22 2903;

23 (B) by transferring such section to appear
 24 after section 2902 of such title (as so redesign-

1 nated and transferred by paragraph (2) of this
2 subsection); and

3 (C) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “of this
4 subchapter”.

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

12 (f) *ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS*.—The Commandant of
13 the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Home-
14 land Security of the House of Representatives—

15 (1) each plan required under section 2904 of title
16 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of
17 this section;

18 (2) each plan required under section 2903(e) of
19 title 14, United States Code, as added by section 206
20 of this Act;

21 (3) each plan required under section 2902 of title
22 14, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection
23 (d) of this section; and

24 (4) each mission need statement required under
25 section 569 of title 14, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 102. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) *ANALYSIS FOR TITLE 14.*—*The analysis for title*
 3 *14, United States Code, is amended by adding after the*
 4 *item relating to part II the following:*

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

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

8 (c) *ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 17.*—*The analysis for*
 9 *chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by*
 10 *striking the items relating to sections 661, 662, 662a, and*
 11 *663.*

12 (d) *ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 27.*—*The analysis for*
 13 *chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, as added by sec-*
 14 *tion 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting—*

15 (1) *before the item relating to section 2702 the*
 16 *following:*

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

17 *and*

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

“2703. Authorization of personnel end strengths.”.

20 (e) *ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 29.*—*The analysis for*
 21 *chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, as added by sec-*
 22 *tion 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting before the*
 23 *item relating to section 2904 the following:*

“2901. *Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.*

“2902. *Capital investment plan.*

“2903. *Major acquisitions.*”.

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

3 (1) *in paragraph (2) by striking “in section*
4 *569a(e)” and inserting “in section 2903”; and*

5 (2) *in paragraph (3) by striking “under section*
6 *663(a)(1)” and inserting “under section 2902(a)(1)”.*

7 ***TITLE II—COAST GUARD***

8 ***SEC. 201. VICE COMMANDANT.***

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

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

15 (c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 51 of title 14,
16 *United States Code, is amended—*

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

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

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

23 (d) *APPLICATION.*—Notwithstanding any other provi-
24 *sion of law, the officer who, on the date of the enactment*

1 *of this Act, is serving as Vice Commandant of the Coast*
 2 *Guard—*

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

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

8 **SEC. 202. VICE ADMIRALS.**

9 *Section 50 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-*
 10 *ed—*

11 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

12 *(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting*
 13 *the following:*

14 *“(1) The President may—*

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

23 *“(B) designate, within the executive branch,*
 24 *other than within the Coast Guard, positions of im-*
 25 *portance and responsibility that shall be held by offi-*

1 *cers who, while so serving, shall have the grade of vice*
 2 *admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade.”;*
 3 *and*

4 *(B) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking “under*
 5 *paragraph (1)” and inserting “under paragraph*
 6 *(1)(A)”;* *and*
 7 *(2) in subsection (b)(2)—*

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

10 *(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as*
 11 *subparagraph (D); and*

12 *(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the*
 13 *following:*

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(1) the indebtedness was incurred while the per-
 2 son served on active duty as a member of the Coast
 3 Guard; and

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

7 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The analysis for chapter
 8 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking
 9 the item relating to section 461 and inserting the following:

 “461. Remission of indebtedness.”.

10 **SEC. 204. ACQUISITION REFORM.**

11 (a) *MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.*—Section
 12 572(d)(3) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

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

15 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
 16 paragraph (C);

17 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
 18 lowing:

19 “(B) the performance data to be used to de-
 20 termine whether the key performance parameters
 21 have been resolved;”; and

22 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C), as re-
 23 designated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the
 24 following:

1 “(D) the results during test and evaluation
 2 that will be required to demonstrate that a capa-
 3 bility, asset, or subsystem meets performance re-
 4 quirements;”.

5 (b) *CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN*.—Section 2902(a)(1)
 6 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and other-
 7 wise amended by this Act, is further amended—

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

11 (2) in subparagraph (D) by striking “at the pro-
 12 jected funding levels;” and inserting “based on the
 13 proposed appropriations included in the budget;”.

14 (c) *DAYS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT*.—Not later than 1
 15 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-
 16 mandant of the Coast Guard shall—

17 (1) implement a standard for tracking oper-
 18 ational days at sea for Coast Guard cutters that does
 19 not include days during which such cutters are un-
 20 dergoing maintenance or repair; and

21 (2) notify the Committee on Transportation and
 22 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the
 23 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
 24 tation of the Senate of the standard implemented
 25 under paragraph (1).

1 (d) *FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FLEET MIX ANALYSIS.*—
 2 *Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commandant of the*
 3 *Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-*
 4 *tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives*
 5 *and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-*
 6 *tation of the Senate a revised fleet mix analysis of Coast*
 7 *Guard fixed wing aircraft.*

8 **SEC. 205. AUXILIARY JURISDICTION.**

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

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

13 “*(a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose*”; and

14 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

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

17 “*(1) the Commandant has determined such wa-*
 18 *terway, or portion thereof, is navigable for purposes*
 19 *of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard; or*

20 “*(2) a State or other proper authority has re-*
 21 *quested such patrol pursuant to section 141 of this*
 22 *title or section 13109 of title 46.”.*

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

1 (1) review the waterways patrolled by the Coast
 2 Guard Auxiliary in the most recently completed fiscal
 3 year to determine whether such waterways are eligible
 4 or ineligible for patrol under section 822(b) of title
 5 14, United States Code (as added by subsection (a));
 6 and

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

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

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

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

19 Section 2903 of title 14, United States Code, as redes-
 20 ignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further
 21 amended—

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

24 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 25 lowing:

1 “(e) *LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN*.—Each
 2 report under subsection (a) shall include a plan that de-
 3 scribes for the upcoming fiscal year, and for each of the
 4 20 fiscal years thereafter—

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

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

9 “(A) replace the cutters and aircraft identi-
 10 fied under paragraph (1); or

11 “(B) address an identified capability gap;
 12 and

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

15 “(A) acquire the cutters and aircraft identi-
 16 fied under paragraph (2);

17 “(B) acquire related command, control,
 18 communications, computer, intelligence, surveil-
 19 lance, and reconnaissance systems; and

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

22 **SEC. 207. COAST GUARD COMMUNITIES.**

23 Section 409 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of
 24 1998 (14 U.S.C. 639 note) is amended by striking the sec-
 25 ond sentence and inserting the following: “The Com-

1 *mandant may recognize any other community in a similar*
 2 *manner if the Commandant determines that such commu-*
 3 *nity has demonstrated enduring support of the Coast*
 4 *Guard, Coast Guard personnel, and the dependents of Coast*
 5 *Guard personnel.”.*

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

8 *Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Trans-*
 9 *portation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat.*
 10 *1560) is amended—*

11 *(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-*
 12 *lows:*

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

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

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

24 *“(3) submit to the Committee on Transportation*
 25 *and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives*

1 *and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-*
 2 *portation of the Senate—*

3 “(A) *the assessment required under para-*
 4 *graph (1); and*

5 “(B) *written notification of the determina-*
 6 *tion required under paragraph (2).”;*

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

9 (3) *by striking subsection (c);*

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

12 (5) *in subsection (c) (as redesignated by para-*
 13 *graph (4) of this section)—*

14 (A) *in paragraph (1)—*

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

17 (ii) *in subparagraph (C) by striking*
 18 *“analysis” and inserting “written notifica-*
 19 *tion”;*

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

22 “(2) *DECOMMISSIONING.—If the Secretary makes*
 23 *a determination under subsection (a) that it is not*
 24 *cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then, not*
 25 *later than 180 days after written notification of that*

1 *determination is submitted under that subsection, the*
 2 *Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission*
 3 *the Polar Sea.”; and*

4 *(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as*
 5 *follows:*

6 *“(3) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If the*
 7 *Secretary does not make a determination under sub-*
 8 *section (a) regarding whether it is cost effective to re-*
 9 *activate the Polar Sea, then the Commandant of the*
 10 *Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.”;*

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

14 *(7) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by para-*
 15 *graph (4) of this section) by striking “in subsection*
 16 *(d)” and inserting “in subsection (c)”.*

17 **SEC. 209. REPEAL.**

18 *Section 225(b)(2) of the Howard Coble Coast Guard*
 19 *and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law*
 20 *113–281; 128 Stat. 3039) is repealed.*

21 **SEC. 210. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.**

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

4 (2) in section 46(a) by striking “subsection” and
5 inserting “section”;

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

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

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

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

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

 “199. Marine safety curriculum.”;

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

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

 “Sec.”;

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

14 (9) in section 581(5)(B) by striking
15 “\$300,000,0000,” and inserting “\$300,000,000.”;

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

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

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

22 (13) in the analysis for chapter 21—

23 (A) by striking the item relating to section
24 709 and inserting the following:

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

1 *and*

2 *(B) by striking the item relating to section*
 3 *740 and inserting the following:*

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

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

6 *(15) in section 821(b)(1) by striking “Chapter*
 7 *26” and inserting “Chapter 171”; and*

8 *(16) in section 823a(b)(1), by striking “Chapter*
 9 *26” and inserting “Chapter 171”.*

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

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

1 *pilot program, a digital boat profile shall be established*
 2 *prior to the commissioning of the cutters.*

3 *(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the establish-*
 4 *ment of the pilot program, and annually thereafter for the*
 5 *succeeding 4 years, the Secretary of the department in*
 6 *which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the*
 7 *Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the*
 8 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,*
 9 *Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describ-*
 10 *ing—*

11 *(1) the implementation of the pilot program; and*

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

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

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

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

23 *(1) provides lifecycle management support, in-*
 24 *cluding through the incorporation of systems manu-*
 25 *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 of*
 4 *deferred tasks, future tasks, readiness assessments,*
 5 *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 replacement*
 13 *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 de-*
 18 *partment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall estab-*
 19 *lish a process for the discontinuance of an aid to navigation*
 20 *established, maintained, or operated by the Coast Guard.*

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

1 (c) *CONSULTATION.*—*In establishing a process under*
2 *subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with and consider*
3 *any recommendations of the Navigation Safety Advisory*
4 *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 Committee*
9 *on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate*
10 *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 and the Committee on Homeland Security of*
16 *the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-*
17 *merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assess-*
18 *ment of the efficacy of the Coast Guard's Standard Oper-*
19 *ational Planning Process with respect to annual mission*
20 *performance measures.*

21 **SEC. 214. COMMUNICATIONS.**

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of the department in*
23 *which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish and*
24 *carry out a response capabilities pilot program to assess,*

1 *at not fewer than 2 Coast Guard command centers, the effec-*
 2 *tiveness of a radio gateway that—*

3 *(1) provides for—*

4 *(A) multiagency collaboration and inter-*
 5 *operability; and*

6 *(B) wide-area, secure, and peer-invitation-*
 7 *and-acceptance-based multimedia communica-*
 8 *tions;*

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

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

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

22 **SEC. 215. COAST GUARD GRADUATE MARITIME OPER-**
 23 **ATIONS EDUCATION.**

24 *Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment*
 25 *of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the*

1 *Coast Guard is operating shall establish an education pro-*
 2 *gram, for members and employees of the Coast Guard,*
 3 *that—*

4 (1) *offers a master's degree in maritime oper-*
 5 *ations;*

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

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

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

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

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

20 ***TITLE III—SHIPPING AND*** 21 ***NAVIGATION***

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

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subchapter I of chapter 313 of title*
 24 *46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end*
 25 *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 fish-*
5 *ing 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 STATE*
9 *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 at*
 4 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after*
 5 *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 immersed*
 13 *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 the*
 17 *Secretary.*

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

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

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

15 (b) *REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.*—

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

23 (A) *the number of casualties for individuals*
 24 *with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a*
 25 *result of immersion in water, reported to the*

1 *Coast Guard over the preceding 30-year period,*
2 *by vessel type and area of operation;*

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

7 *(C) the effect that carriage of survival craft*
8 *that ensure that no part of an individual is im-*
9 *mersed in water has on—*

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

12 *(ii) improving the survivability of in-*
13 *dividuals, including individuals with dis-*
14 *abilities, children, and the elderly; and*

15 *(iii) the costs, the incremental cost dif-*
16 *ference to vessel operators, and the cost effec-*
17 *tiveness of requiring the carriage of such*
18 *survival craft to address the risks to indi-*
19 *viduals with disabilities, children, and the*
20 *elderly;*

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

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

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, United
 14 States Code, is amended—

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

17 “(1) Each department or agency that has respon-
 18 sibility for a program under this section shall admin-
 19 ister that program consistent with this section and
 20 any regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary
 21 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 the*
2 *department, agency, organization, or person involved,*
3 *shall have exclusive authority for determining the ap-*
4 *plicability of this section to a program of a Federal*
5 *department or agency, after consulting with the de-*
6 *partment, agency, organization, or person involved.*

7 “(B) *The head of a Federal department or agen-*
8 *cy shall request the Secretary to determine the appli-*
9 *cability of this section to a program of such depart-*
10 *ment or agency if the department or agency is uncer-*
11 *tain of such applicability. Not later than 30 days*
12 *after receiving such a request, the Secretary shall*
13 *make such determination.*

14 “(C) *Subparagraph (B) shall not be construed to*
15 *limit the authority of the Secretary to make a deter-*
16 *mination regarding the applicability of this section to*
17 *a program administered by a Federal department or*
18 *agency.*

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

23 (3) *in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by*
24 *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;”; and
5 (4) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(4) On the date on which the President submits
7 to Congress a budget pursuant to section 1105 of title
8 31, the Secretary shall make available on the Internet
9 website of the Department of Transportation a report
10 that—

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

14 “(B) describes the results of the most recent
15 annual review required by paragraph (3)(A), in-
16 cluding identification of the departments and
17 agencies that transported cargo in violation of
18 this section and any action the Secretary took
19 under paragraph (3) with respect to each viola-
20 tion.”.

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

1 (c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 3511(c) of the
 2 *Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for*
 3 *Fiscal Year 2009 (46 U.S.C. 55305 note) is repealed.*

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

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 4302 of title 46, United
 6 *States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:*

7 “(e)(1) *If in prescribing regulations under this section*
 8 *the Secretary establishes a model year for recreational ves-*
 9 *sels and associated equipment, such model year shall, except*
 10 *as provided in paragraph (2)—*

11 “(A) *begin on June 1 of a year and end on July*
 12 *31 of the following year; and*

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

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

19 (b) *APPLICATION.*—*This section shall only apply with*
 20 *respect to recreational vessels and associated equipment*
 21 *constructed or manufactured, respectively, on or after June*
 22 *1, 2015.*

23 (c) *GUIDANCE.*—*Not later than 90 days after the date*
 24 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department*
 25 *in which the Coast Guard is operating shall publish guid-*

1 *ance to implement section 4302(d)(2) of title 46, United*
 2 *States Code.*

3 **SEC. 305. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL EXPIRATION**
 4 **HARMONIZATION.**

5 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection*
 6 *(c) and not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment*
 7 *of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the*
 8 *Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process to har-*
 9 *monize the expiration dates of merchant mariner creden-*
 10 *tials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer en-*
 11 *dorsements for individuals applying to the Secretary for a*
 12 *new merchant mariner credential or for renewal of an exist-*
 13 *ing merchant mariner credential.*

14 *(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that*
 15 *the process established under subsection (a)—*

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

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

24 *(c) EXCEPTION.—The process established under sub-*
 25 *section (a) does not apply to individuals—*

1 (1) *holding a merchant mariner credential*
 2 *with—*

3 (A) *an active Standards of Training, Cer-*
 4 *tification, and Watchkeeping endorsement; or*

5 (B) *Federal first-class pilot endorsement; or*

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

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

9 *Section 6 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33*
 10 *U.S.C. 1225) is amended by adding at the end 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 ma-*
 16 *rine event conducted under a permit or other author-*
 17 *ization by the Coast Guard.*

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

21 “(3) *TREATMENT OF RECOVERED COSTS.—Costs*
 22 *recovered by the Secretary under this subsection shall*
 23 *be credited to the appropriation for operating ex-*
 24 *penses 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, or*
 4 *location, will introduce extra or unusual hazards to*
 5 *the safety of life on the navigable waters of the United*
 6 *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 strik-
15 ing “Secretary of Transportation” each place it
16 appears and inserting “Secretary of the depart-
17 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

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

21 (A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 491), by
22 striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
23 serting “Secretary of the department in which
24 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) is
 15 amended by striking “Secretary of Transportation”
 16 each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the
 17 department in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

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

21 (A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 511), by
 22 striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
 23 serting “Secretary of the department in which
 24 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 Coast
 4 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 strik-
 11 ing “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting
 12 “Secretary of the department in which the Coast
 13 Guard is operating”.

14 (5) GENERAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1946.—The General
 15 Bridge Act of 1946 is amended—

16 (A) in section 502(b) (33 U.S.C. 525(b)), by
 17 striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
 18 serting “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 strik-*
 4 *ing “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting*
 5 *“Secretary of the department in which the Coast*
 6 *Guard is operating”;* and

7 (B) *in section 8 (33 U.S.C. 535e), by strik-*
 8 *ing “Secretary of Transportation” each place it*
 9 *appears and inserting “Secretary of the depart-*
 10 *ment in which the Coast Guard is operating”.*

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

13 *Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment*
 14 *of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall notify*
 15 *the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the*
 16 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,*
 17 *Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the actions*
 18 *the Commandant will take to implement recommendations*
 19 *on improvements to the Coast Guard’s marine casualty re-*
 20 *porting requirements and procedures included in—*

21 (1) *the Department of Homeland Security Office*
 22 *of Inspector General report entitled “Marine Accident*
 23 *Reporting, Investigations, and Enforcement in the*
 24 *United States Coast Guard”, released on May 23,*
 25 *2013; and*

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 310. MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION**
 17 **REFORM.**

18 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 75 of title 46, United
 19 *States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:*
 20 **“§ 7509. Medical certification by trusted agents**

21 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other provi-
 22 *sion of law and pursuant to regulations prescribed by the*
 23 *Secretary, a trusted agent may issue a medical certificate*
 24 *to an individual who—*

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

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

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

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

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

 “7509. Medical certification by trusted agents.”.

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

22 Not later than April 1, 2016, the Commandant of the
 23 Coast Guard shall conclude the Atlantic Coast Port Access
 24 Route Study and submit the results of such study to the
 25 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the

1 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,*
 2 *Science, and Transportation of the Senate.*

3 **SEC. 312. CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR REC-**
 4 **REATIONAL VESSELS.**

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

8 *(1) make certificates of documentation for rec-*
 9 *reational vessels effective for 5 years; and*

10 *(2) require the owner of such a vessel—*

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

15 *(B) apply for a new certificates of docu-*
 16 *mentation for such a vessel if there is any such*
 17 *change.*

18 **SEC. 313. PROGRAM GUIDELINES.**

19 *Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment*
 20 *this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—*

21 *(1) develop guidelines to implement the program*
 22 *authorized under section 304(a) of the Coast Guard*
 23 *and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public*
 24 *Law 109–241), including specific actions to ensure*

1 *the future availability of able and credentialed United*
2 *States licensed and unlicensed seafarers including—*

3 *(A) incentives to encourage partnership*
4 *agreements with operators of foreign-flag vessels*
5 *that carry liquified natural gas, that provide no*
6 *less than one training billet per vessel for United*
7 *States merchant mariners in order to meet min-*
8 *imum mandatory sea service requirements;*

9 *(B) development of appropriate training*
10 *curricula for use by public and private maritime*
11 *training institutions to meet all United States*
12 *merchant mariner license, certification, and doc-*
13 *ument laws and requirements under the Inter-*
14 *national Convention on Standards of Training,*
15 *Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers,*
16 *1978; and*

17 *(C) steps to promote greater outreach and*
18 *awareness of additional job opportunities for sea*
19 *service veterans of the United States Armed*
20 *Forces; and*

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

1 **SEC. 314. REPEALS.**

2 (a) *REPEALS, MERCHANT MARINE ACT, 1936.*—Sec-
3 *tions 601 through 606, 608 through 611, 613 through 616,*
4 *802, and 809 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C.*
5 *53101 note) are repealed.*

6 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—Chapter 575 of title
7 46, United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) *in section 57501, by striking “titles V and*
9 *VI” and inserting “title V” ; and*

10 (2) *in section 57531(a), by striking “titles V and*
11 *VI” and inserting “title V”.*

12 (c) *TRANSFER FROM MERCHANT MARINE ACT,*
13 *1936.*—

14 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 801 of the Merchant
15 *Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note) is—*

16 (A) *redesignated as section 57522 of title*
17 *46, United States Code, and transferred to ap-*
18 *pear after section 57521 of such title; and*

19 (B) *as so redesignated and transferred, is*
20 *amended—*

21 (i) *by striking so much as precedes the*
22 *first sentence and inserting the following:*

1 **“§ 57522. Books and records, balance sheets, and in-**
 2 **spection and auditing”;**

3 (ii) by striking “the provision of title
 4 VI or VII of this Act” and inserting “this
 5 chapter”;

6 (iii) by striking “That the provisions”
 7 and all that follows through “Commission;
 8 (2)” ; and

9 (iv) by redesignating clauses (3) and
 10 (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

11 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The analysis for
 12 chapter 575, of title 46, United States Code, is
 13 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 14 tion 57521 the following:

“57522. Books and records, balance sheets, and inspection and auditing.”.

15 (d) *REPEALS, TITLE 46, U.S.C.*—Section 8103 of title
 16 46, United States Code, is amended in subsections (c) and
 17 (d) by striking “or operating” each place it appears.

18 **TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME** 19 **COMMISSION**

20 **SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 3 of title 46, United States
 22 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

24 “There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal
 25 Maritime Commission \$24,700,000 for each of fiscal years

1 *2016 and 2017 for the activities of the Commission author-*
 2 *ized under this chapter and subtitle IV.”.*

3 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The analysis for chapter*
 4 *3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding*
 5 *at the end the following:*

“308. Authorization of appropriations.”.

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

7 *Section 301(c)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code,*
 8 *is amended—*

9 (1) *in clause (ii) by striking “units, but only*
 10 *after consultation with the other Commissioners;” and*
 11 *inserting “units (with such appointments subject to*
 12 *the approval of the Commission);”;*

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

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

16 (4) *by adding at the end the following:*

17 *“(vi) prepare and submit to the Presi-*
 18 *dent and Congress requests for appropria-*
 19 *tions for the Commission (with such re-*
 20 *quests subject to the approval of the Com-*
 21 *mission).”.*

22 **SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON AWARDS.**

23 *Section 307 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-*
 24 *ed—*

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

3 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Federal Maritime Commis-
 4 sion”; and

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

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

11 **TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS**

12 **SEC. 501. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN** 13 **MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.**

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

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

23 (c) *SURVEY.*—The exact acreage and legal description
 24 of the covered property shall be determined by a survey sat-
 25 isfactory to the Commandant.

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

3 (1) *be determined by appraisal; and*

4 (2) *be subject to the approval of the Com-*
 5 *mandant.*

6 (e) *COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.*—*The responsibility for all*
 7 *reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate trans-*
 8 *action and environmental documentation costs, associated*
 9 *with a conveyance under this section shall be determined*
 10 *by the Commandant and the purchaser.*

11 (f) *ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—*The Com-*
 12 *mandant may require such additional terms and conditions*
 13 *in connection with a conveyance under this section as the*
 14 *Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to pro-*
 15 *tect the interests of the United States.*

16 (g) *DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.*—*Any proceeds received*
 17 *by the United States in a conveyance under this section*
 18 *shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund estab-*
 19 *lished by section 687 of title 14, United States Code.*

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

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

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

3 (3) *described as “Parcel A, Tract 1”, “Parcel B,*
 4 *Tract 2”, “Parcel C”, and “Parcel D” in the Declara-*
 5 *tion of Taking (Civil No. C-71-1245 SC) filed June*
 6 *28, 1971, in the United States District Court for the*
 7 *Northern District of California.*

8 **SEC. 502. ELIMINATION OF REPORTS.**

9 (a) *DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.*—Section 421 of the
 10 *Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46*
 11 *U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended by striking subsection (d).*

12 (b) *ANNUAL UPDATES ON LIMITS TO LIABILITY.*—Sec-
 13 *tion 603(c)(3) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transpor-*
 14 *tation Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 2704 note) is amended by*
 15 *striking “on an annual basis.” and inserting “not later*
 16 *than January 30 of the year following each year in which*
 17 *occurs an oil discharge from a vessel or nonvessel source*
 18 *that results or is likely to result in removal costs and dam-*
 19 *ages (as those terms are defined in section 1001 of the Oil*
 20 *Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701)) that exceed liabil-*
 21 *ity limits established under section 1004 of the Oil Pollu-*
 22 *tion Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2704).”.*

23 (c) *INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1972.*—The Inter-
 24 *national Bridge Act of 1972 is amended by striking section*
 25 *11 (33 U.S.C. 535h).*

1 **SEC. 503. VESSEL DOCUMENTATION.**

2 *Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment*
 3 *this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall*
 4 *submit to the Committee on Transportation and infrastruc-*
 5 *ture of the House and the Committee on Commerce, Science,*
 6 *and Transportation of the Senate, a description of actions*
 7 *that could be taken to—*

8 *(1) improve the efficiency of performance of the*
 9 *functions currently carried out by the National Vessel*
 10 *Documentation Center, including by—*

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

13 *(B) reassigning Coast Guard personnel to*
 14 *better meet the Coast Guard's vessel documenta-*
 15 *tion mission; and*

16 *(2) strengthen the review of compliance with*
 17 *United States ownership requirements for vessels doc-*
 18 *umented under the laws of the United States.*

19 **SEC. 504. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN**
 20 **TOK, ALASKA.**

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

1 (b) *RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.*—*The Tanana Chiefs’*
 2 *Conference shall have the right of first refusal with respect*
 3 *to purchase of the covered property under this section.*

4 (c) *SURVEY.*—*The exact acreage and legal description*
 5 *of the covered property shall be determined by a survey sat-*
 6 *isfactory to the Commandant.*

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

9 (1) *determined by appraisal; and*

10 (2) *subject to the approval of the Commandant.*

11 (e) *COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.*—*The responsibility for all*
 12 *reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate trans-*
 13 *action and environmental documentation costs, associated*
 14 *with a conveyance under this section shall be determined*
 15 *by the Commandant and the purchaser.*

16 (f) *ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—*The Com-*
 17 *mandant may require such additional terms and conditions*
 18 *in connection with a conveyance under this section as the*
 19 *Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to pro-*
 20 *tect the interests of the United States.*

21 (g) *DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.*—*Any proceeds received*
 22 *by the United States from a conveyance under this section*
 23 *shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund estab-*
 24 *lished under section 687 of title 14, United States Code.*

25 (h) *COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In this section, the term “covered property” means the approximately 3.25 acres of real property (including all improvements located on the property) that are—*

(A) located in Tok, Alaska;

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

(C) described in paragraph (2).

(2) *DESCRIPTION.*—*The property described in this paragraph is the following:*

(A) Lots 11, 12 and 13, block “G”, Second Addition to Hartsell Subdivision, Section 20, Township 18 North, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska as appears by Plat No. 72-39 filed in the Office of the Recorder for the Fairbanks Recording District of Alaska, bearing seal dated 25 September 1972, all containing approximately 1.25 Acres and commonly known as 2-PLEX – Jackie Circle, Units A and B.

(B) Beginning at a point being the SE corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 24, Township 18 North, Range 12 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska; thence running westerly along the south line of said SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 260 feet; thence northerly parallel to the east line of

1 *said SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 335 feet; thence easterly*
 2 *parallel to the south line 260 feet; then south 335*
 3 *feet along the east boundary of Section 24 to the*
 4 *point of beginning; all containing approximately*
 5 *2.0 acres and commonly known as 4-PLEX –*
 6 *West “C” and Willow, Units A, B, C and D.*

7 **SEC. 505. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES.**

8 *The Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Trans-*
 9 *portation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281) is amended—*
 10 *(1) in section 610, by—*

11 *(A) striking the section enumerator and*
 12 *heading and inserting the following:*

13 **“SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT**
 14 **LAKES.”;**

15 *(B) striking “existing boundaries and any*
 16 *future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay*
 17 *National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater*
 18 *Preserve” and inserting “boundaries of any na-*
 19 *tional marine sanctuary that preserves ship-*
 20 *wrecks or maritime heritage in the Great Lakes”;*
 21 *and*

22 *(C) by inserting before the period at the end*
 23 *the following: “, unless the designation docu-*
 24 *ments for such sanctuary do not allow taking up*

1 *or discharging ballast water in such sanctuary”;*
 2 *and*
 3 *(2) in the table of contents in section 2, by strik-*
 4 *ing the item relating to such section and inserting the*
 5 *following:*

“Sec. 610. Safe vessel operation in the Great Lakes.”.

6 **SEC. 506. USE OF VESSEL SALE PROCEEDS.**

7 *(a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United*
 8 *States shall conduct an audit of funds credited in each fis-*
 9 *cal year after fiscal year 2004 to the Vessel Operations Re-*
 10 *volving Fund that are attributable to the sale of obsolete*
 11 *vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that were*
 12 *scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and 57104*
 13 *of title 46, United States Code, including—*

14 *(1) a complete accounting of all vessel sale pro-*
 15 *ceeds attributable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the*
 16 *National Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or*
 17 *sold under sections 57102, 57103 and 57104 of title*
 18 *46, United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal*
 19 *year 2004;*

20 *(2) the annual apportionment of proceeds ac-*
 21 *counted for under paragraph (1) among the uses au-*
 22 *thorized under section 308704 of title 54, United*
 23 *States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004,*
 24 *including—*

1 (A) for National Maritime Heritage Grants,
2 including a list of all annual National Maritime
3 Heritage Grant grant and subgrant awards that
4 identifies the respective grant and subgrant re-
5 cipients and grant and subgrant amounts;

6 (B) for the preservation and presentation to
7 the public of maritime heritage property of the
8 Maritime Administration;

9 (C) to the United States Merchant Marine
10 Academy and State maritime academies, includ-
11 ing a list of annual awards; and

12 (D) for the acquisition, repair, recondi-
13 tioning, or improvement of vessels in the Na-
14 tional Defense Reserve Fleet; and

15 (3) an accounting of proceeds, if any, attrib-
16 utable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the National
17 Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or sold
18 under sections 57102, 57103, and 57104 of title 46,
19 United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal
20 year 2004, that were expended for uses not authorized
21 under section 308704 of title 54, United States Code.

22 (b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180
23 days after the date of enactment this Act, the Comptroller
24 General shall submit the audit conducted in subsection (a)
25 to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Nat-

1 *ural Resources, and the Committee on Transportation and*
 2 *Infrastructure of the House and the Committee on Com-*
 3 *merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.*

4 **SEC. 507. FISHING VESSEL AND FISH TENDER VESSEL CER-**
 5 **TIFICATION.**

6 *Section 4503 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-*
 7 *ed—*

8 *(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the*
 9 *following: “Subsection (a) does not apply to a fishing*
 10 *vessel or fish tender vessel described in subsection*
 11 *(d)(6), if the vessel complies with an alternative safe-*
 12 *ty compliance program established under that sub-*
 13 *section for such a vessel.”; and*

14 *(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the*
 15 *following:*

16 *“(6) The Secretary shall establish an alternative safety*
 17 *compliance program for fishing vessels or fish tender vessels*
 18 *(or both) that are at least 50 feet overall in length, and*
 19 *not more than 79 feet overall in length, and built after July*
 20 *1, 2013.”.*

21 **SEC. 508. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COST COM-**
 22 **PARISON.**

23 *(a) COST COMPARISON.—The Secretary of the depart-*
 24 *ment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall seek to*
 25 *enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of*

1 *Sciences under which the Academy, by no later than 180*
2 *days after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall submit*
3 *to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of*
4 *the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-*
5 *merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a com-*
6 *parison of the costs incurred by the Federal Government*
7 *for each of the following alternatives:*

8 (1) *Transferring the Polar Sea to a non-govern-*
9 *mental entity at no cost, and leasing back the vessel*
10 *beginning on the date on which the Coast Guard cer-*
11 *tifies that the vessel is capable of the breaking out and*
12 *missions described in subsection (c)(1).*

13 (2) *The reactivation and operation by the Coast*
14 *Guard of the Polar Sea to an operational level at*
15 *which the vessel is capable of such breaking out and*
16 *missions.*

17 (3) *Acquiring and operating a new icebreaker*
18 *through the Coast Guard's acquisition process that is*
19 *capable of such breaking out and missions.*

20 (4) *Construction by a non-Federal entity of an*
21 *icebreaker capable of such breaking out and missions,*
22 *that will be leased by the Federal Government and*
23 *operated using a Coast Guard crew.*

24 (5) *Construction by a non-Federal entity of an*
25 *icebreaker capable of such breaking out and missions,*

1 *that will be leased by the Federal Government and*
2 *operated by a crew of non-Federal employees.*

3 *(6) The acquisition of services from a non-Fed-*
4 *eral entity to perform such breaking out and mis-*
5 *sions.*

6 *(b) INCLUDED COSTS.—For purposes of subsection (a),*
7 *the cost of each alternative includes costs incurred by the*
8 *Federal Government for—*

9 *(1) the lease or operation and maintenance of the*
10 *vessel concerned;*

11 *(2) disposal of such vessel at the end of the useful*
12 *life of the vessel;*

13 *(3) retirement and other benefits for Federal em-*
14 *ployees who operate such vessel; and*

15 *(4) interest payments assumed to be incurred for*
16 *Federal capital expenditures.*

17 *(c) ASSUMPTIONS.—For purposes of comparing the*
18 *costs of such alternatives, the Academy shall assume that—*

19 *(1) each vessel under consideration is—*

20 *(A) capable of breaking out of McMurdo*
21 *Station, and conducting Coast Guard missions*
22 *in the United States territory in the Arctic (as*
23 *that term is defined in section 112 of the Arctic*
24 *Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C.*
25 *4111)); and*

- 1 (B) operated for a period of 20 years;
- 2 (2) the acquisition of services and the operation
- 3 of each vessel begin on the same date; and
- 4 (3) the periods for conducting Coast Guard mis-
- 5 sions in the Arctic are of equal lengths.

6 **SEC. 509. PENALTY WAGES.**

7 (a) *FOREIGN AND INTERCOASTAL VOYAGES.*—Section

8 10313(g) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) by striking “all claims in a class action

11 suit by seamen” and inserting “each claim by a

12 seaman”; and

13 (B) by striking “the seamen” and inserting

14 “the seaman”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (3)—

16 (A) by striking “class action”; and

17 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, by

18 a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,” and

19 inserting “by the seaman”.

20 (b) *COASTWISE VOYAGES.*—Section 10504(c) of such

21 title is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) by striking “all claims in a class action

24 suit by seamen” and inserting “each claim by a

25 seaman”; and

1 (B) by striking “the seamen” and inserting
 2 “the seaman”; and
 3 (2) in paragraph (3)—
 4 (A) by striking “class action”; and
 5 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, by
 6 a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,” and
 7 inserting “by the seaman”.

8 **SEC. 510. RECOURSE FOR NONCITIZENS.**

9 Section 30104 of title 46, United States Code, is
 10 amended—

11 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before the
 12 first sentence; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 14 section:

15 “(b) RESTRICTION ON RECOVERY FOR NONRESIDENT
 16 ALIENS EMPLOYED ON FOREIGN PASSENGER VESSELS.—
 17 A claim for damages or expenses relating to personal in-
 18 jury, illness, or death of a seaman who is a citizen of a
 19 foreign nation, arising during or from the engagement of
 20 the seaman by or for a passenger vessel duly registered
 21 under the laws of a foreign nation, may not be brought
 22 under the laws of the United States if—

23 “(1) such seaman was not a permanent resident
 24 alien of the United States at the time the claim arose;

1 “(2) the injury, illness, or death arose outside the
2 territorial waters of the United States; and

3 “(3) the seaman or the seaman’s personal rep-
4 resentative has or had a right to seek compensation
5 for the injury, illness, or death in, or under the laws
6 of—

7 “(A) the nation in which the vessel was reg-
8 istered at the time the claim arose; or

9 “(B) the nation in which the seaman main-
10 tained citizenship or residency at the time the
11 claim arose.”.

Union Calendar No. 81

114TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 1987

[Report No. 114-115]

A BILL

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

MAY 15, 2015

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed