

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4188

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 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. Coast Guard communities.
- Sec. 207. Polar icebreakers.
- Sec. 208. Air facility closures.
- Sec. 209. Technical corrections to title 14, United States Code.
- Sec. 210. Discontinuance of an aid to navigation.
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- Sec. 212. Communications.
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- Sec. 215. Senior enlisted member continuation boards.
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- Sec. 217. Transfer of funds necessary to provide medical care.
- Sec. 218. Participation of the Coast Guard Academy in Federal, State, or other educational research grants.
- Sec. 219. National Coast Guard Museum.
- Sec. 220. Investigations.
- Sec. 221. Clarification of eligibility of members of the Coast Guard for combat-related special compensation.
- Sec. 222. Leave policies for the Coast Guard.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

- Sec. 301. Survival craft.
- Sec. 302. Vessel replacement.
- Sec. 303. Model years for recreational vessels.
- Sec. 304. Merchant mariner credential expiration harmonization.
- Sec. 305. Safety zones for permitted marine events.
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- Sec. 307. Recommendations for improvements of marine casualty reporting.
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- Sec. 309. Merchant mariner medical certification reform.
- Sec. 310. Atlantic Coast port access route study.
- Sec. 311. Certificates of documentation for recreational vessels.
- Sec. 312. Program guidelines.
- Sec. 313. Repeals.
- Sec. 314. Maritime drug law enforcement.
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TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

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TITLE V—CONVEYANCES

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Sec. 531. Findings.

Sec. 532. Definitions.

Sec. 533. Authority to convey land in Point Spencer.

Sec. 534. Environmental compliance, liability, and monitoring.

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Sec. 541. Port Coordination Council for Point Spencer.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Modification of reports.

Sec. 602. Safe vessel operation in the Great Lakes.

Sec. 603. Use of vessel sale proceeds.

Sec. 604. National Academy of Sciences cost assessment.

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Sec. 607. Coastwise endorsements.

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Sec. 609. Assessment of oil spill response and cleanup activities in the Great Lakes.

Sec. 610. Report on status of technology detecting passengers who have fallen overboard.

Sec. 611. Venue.

Sec. 612. Disposition of infrastructure related to E-LORAN.

Sec. 613. Parking.

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) \$1,945,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;
 19 and

20 “(B) \$1,945,000,000 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 the Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017
21 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the
22 President submits to the 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.

21 “(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over
22 navigable waters of the United States constituting
23 obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and
24 administrative costs associated with the Alteration of
25 Bridges Program.”.

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

4 (1) by redesignating such section as section
5 2703; and

6 (2) by transferring such section to appear be-
7 fore section 2704 of such title (as added by sub-
8 section (a) of this section).

9 (d) REPORTS.—

10 (1) TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD
11 AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.—Section 662a of title
12 14, United States Code, is amended—

13 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
14 tion 2901;

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

18 (C) in subsection (b)—

19 (i) in paragraph (1) by striking “de-
20 scribed in section 661” and inserting “de-
21 scribed in section 2703”; and

22 (ii) in paragraph (2) by striking “de-
23 scribed in section 662” and inserting “de-
24 scribed in section 2701”.

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

3 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
4 tion 2902; and

5 (B) by transferring such section to appear
6 after section 2901 of such title (as so redesign-
7 ated and transferred by paragraph (1) of this
8 subsection).

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

11 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
12 tion 2903;

13 (B) by transferring such section to appear
14 after section 2902 of such title (as so redesign-
15 ated and transferred by paragraph (2) of this
16 subsection); and

17 (C) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “of this
18 subchapter”.

19 (e) ICEBREAKERS.—

20 (1) ICEBREAKING ON THE GREAT LAKES.—For
21 fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the Commandant of the
22 Coast Guard may use funds made available pursuant
23 to section 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code
24 (as added by subsection (a) of this section), for the
25 selection of a design for and the construction of an

1 icebreaker that is capable of buoy tending to en-
2 hance icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

3 (2) POLAR ICEBREAKING.—Of the amounts au-
4 thorized to be appropriated under section 2702(2) of
5 title 14, United States Code, as amended by sub-
6 section (a), there is authorized to be appropriated to
7 the Coast Guard \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2016
8 and \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 for
9 preacquisition activities for a new polar icebreaker,
10 including initial specification development and feasi-
11 bility studies.

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

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

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

21 (3) each plan required under section 2902 of
22 title 14, United States Code, as redesignated by sub-
23 section (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
7 by 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
10 by striking the items relating to sections 661, 662, 662a,
11 and 663.

12 (d) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 27.—The analysis for
13 chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, as added by
14 section 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
22 section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting before
23 the 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
7 2902(a)(1)”.

8 **TITLE II—COAST GUARD**

9 **SEC. 201. VICE COMMANDANT.**

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

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

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 51 of title
17 14, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 202. VICE ADMIRALS.**

2 Section 50 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
3 ed—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

7 “(1) The President may—

8 “(A) designate, within the Coast Guard, no
9 more than five positions of importance and responsi-
10 bility that shall be held by officers who, while so
11 serving—

12 “(i) shall have the grade of vice admiral,
13 with the pay and allowances of that grade; and

14 “(ii) shall perform such duties as the Com-
15 mandant may prescribe, except that if the
16 President designates five such positions, one po-
17 sition shall be the Chief of Staff of the Coast
18 Guard; and

19 “(B) designate, within the executive branch,
20 other than within the Coast Guard or the National
21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, positions
22 of importance and responsibility that shall be held
23 by officers who, while so serving, shall have the
24 grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances
25 of that grade.”; and

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

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

7 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
8 subparagraph (D); and

9 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
10 the following:

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

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

17 (a) **EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO REMIT INDEBT-**
18 **EDNESS.**—Section 461 of title 14, United States Code, is
19 amended to read as follows:

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

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

1 “(1) the indebtedness was incurred while the
2 person served on active duty as a member of the
3 Coast 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 chap-
8 ter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by
9 striking the item relating to section 461 and inserting the
10 following:

 “461. Remission of indebtedness.”.

11 **SEC. 204. ACQUISITION REFORM.**

12 (a) MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Section
13 572(d)(3) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

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

20 “(B) the performance data to be used to
21 determine whether the key performance param-
22 eters have been resolved;”; and

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

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

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

8 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
10 “completion;” and inserting “completion based
11 on the proposed appropriations included in the
12 budget;”; and

13 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “at
14 the projected funding levels;” and inserting
15 “based on the proposed appropriations included
16 in the budget;”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
18 section (c), and inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(b) NEW CAPITAL ASSETS.—In the fiscal year fol-
21 lowing each fiscal year for which appropriations are en-
22 acted for a new capital asset, the report submitted under
23 subsection (a) shall include—

24 “(1) an estimated life-cycle cost estimate for
25 the new capital asset;

1 “(2) an assessment of the impact the new cap-
2 ital asset will have on—

3 “(A) delivery dates for each capital asset;

4 “(B) estimated completion dates for each
5 capital asset;

6 “(C) the total estimated cost to complete
7 each capital asset; and

8 “(D) other planned construction or im-
9 provement projects; and

10 “(3) recommended funding levels for each cap-
11 ital asset necessary to meet the estimated completion
12 dates and total estimated costs included in the such
13 asset’s approved acquisition program baseline.”; and

14 (3) by amending subsection (c), as so redesign-
15 nated, to read as follows:

16 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

17 “(1) the term ‘unfunded priority’ means a pro-
18 gram or mission requirement that—

19 “(A) has not been selected for funding in
20 the applicable proposed budget;

21 “(B) is necessary to fulfill a requirement
22 associated with an operational need; and

23 “(C) the Commandant would have rec-
24 ommended for inclusion in the applicable pro-
25 posed budget had additional resources been

1 available or had the requirement emerged be-
2 fore the budget was submitted; and

3 “(2) the term ‘new capital asset’ means—

4 “(A) an acquisition program that does not
5 have an approved acquisition program baseline;
6 or

7 “(B) the acquisition of a capital asset in
8 excess of the number included in the approved
9 acquisition program baseline.”.

10 (c) DAYS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT.—Not later than
11 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
12 Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

13 (1) implement a standard for tracking oper-
14 ational days at sea for Coast Guard cutters that
15 does not include days during which such cutters are
16 undergoing maintenance or repair; and

17 (2) notify the Committee on Transportation
18 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
19 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
20 Transportation of the Senate of the standard imple-
21 mented under paragraph (1).

22 (d) FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FLEET MIX ANALYSIS.—
23 Not later than September 30, 2016, the Commandant of
24 the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Trans-
25 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-

1 tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
2 Transportation of the Senate a revised fleet mix analysis
3 of Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft.

4 (e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—Sec-
5 tion 2903 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated
6 and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
8 section (g); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—
12 Each report under subsection (a) shall include a plan that
13 describes for the upcoming fiscal year, and for each of the
14 20 fiscal years thereafter—

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

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

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

21 “(B) address an identified capability gap;
22 and

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

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

3 “(B) acquire related command, control,
4 communications, computer, intelligence, surveil-
5 lance, and reconnaissance systems; and

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

8 “(f) QUARTERLY UPDATES ON RISKS OF PRO-
9 GRAMS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days
11 after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Com-
12 mandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the
13 committees of Congress specified in subsection (a)
14 an update setting forth a current assessment of the
15 risks associated with all current major acquisition
16 programs.

17 “(2) ELEMENTS.—Each update under this sub-
18 section shall set forth, for each current major acqui-
19 sition program, the following:

20 “(A) The top five current risks to such
21 program.

22 “(B) Any failure of such program to dem-
23 onstrate a key performance parameter or
24 threshold during operational test and evaluation

1 conducted during the fiscal year quarter pre-
2 ceding such update.

3 “(C) Whether there has been any decision
4 during such fiscal year quarter to order full-
5 rate production before all key performance pa-
6 rameters or thresholds are met.

7 “(D) Whether there has been any breach
8 of major acquisition program cost (as defined
9 by the Major Systems Acquisition Manual) dur-
10 ing such fiscal year quarter.

11 “(E) Whether there has been any breach
12 of major acquisition program schedule (as so
13 defined) during such fiscal year quarter.”.

14 **SEC. 205. AUXILIARY JURISDICTION.**

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

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

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose”; and

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

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

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

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

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

6 (1) review the waterways patrolled by the Coast
7 Guard Auxiliary in the most recently completed fis-
8 cal year to determine whether such waterways are
9 eligible or ineligible for patrol under section 822(b)
10 of title 14, United States Code (as added by sub-
11 section (a)); and

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 206. COAST GUARD COMMUNITIES.**

2 Section 409 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act
3 of 1998 (14 U.S.C. 639 note) is amended in the second
4 sentence by striking “90 days” and inserting “30 days”.

5 **SEC. 207. POLAR ICEBREAKERS.**

6 (a) INCREMENTAL FUNDING AUTHORITY FOR POLAR
7 ICEBREAKERS.—In fiscal year 2016 and each fiscal year
8 thereafter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may
9 enter into a contract or contracts for the acquisition of
10 polar icebreakers and associated equipment using incre-
11 mental funding.

12 (b) “POLAR SEA” MATERIEL CONDITION ASSESS-
13 MENT AND SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION.—Section 222 of
14 the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of
15 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
18 lows:

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
20 date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization
21 Act of 2015, the Secretary of the department in which
22 the Coast Guard is operating shall—

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

25 “(2) make a determination of whether it is cost
26 effective to reactivate the Polar Sea compared with

1 other options to provide icebreaking services as part
2 of a strategy to maintain polar icebreaking services;
3 and

4 “(3) submit to the Committee on Transpor-
5 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Represent-
6 atives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
7 and Transportation of the Senate—

8 “(A) the assessment required under para-
9 graph (1); and

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

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

14 (3) by striking subsection (c);

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

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

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

22 (ii) in subparagraph (C) by striking
23 “analysis” and inserting “written notifica-
24 tion”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “analysis” each place it
2 appears and inserting “written notifica-
3 tion”;

4 (ii) by striking “subsection (a)” and
5 inserting “subsection (a)(3)(B)”;

6 (iii) by striking “subsection (c)” each
7 place it appears and inserting “that sub-
8 section”; and

9 (iv) by striking “under subsection
10 (a)(5)”;

11 (C) in paragraph (3)—

12 (i) by striking “in the analysis sub-
13 mitted under this section”;

14 (ii) by striking “(a)(5)” and inserting
15 “(a)”;

16 (iii) by striking “then” and all that
17 follows through “(A)” and inserting
18 “then”;

19 (iv) by striking “; or” and inserting a
20 period; and

21 (v) by striking subparagraph (B); and

22 (6) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by para-
23 graph (4) of this subsection) by striking “in sub-
24 section (d)” and inserting “in subsection (c)”.

1 **SEC. 208. AIR FACILITY CLOSURES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United
3 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 676 the
4 following:

5 **“§ 676a. Air facility closures**

6 “(a) PROHIBITION.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Coast Guard may
8 not—

9 “(A) close a Coast Guard air facility that
10 was in operation on November 30, 2014; or

11 “(B) retire, transfer, relocate, or deploy an
12 aviation asset from an air facility described in
13 subparagraph (A) for the purpose of closing
14 such facility.

15 “(2) SUNSET.—Paragraph (1) shall have no
16 force or effect beginning on the later of—

17 “(A) January 1, 2018; or

18 “(B) the date on which the Secretary sub-
19 mits to the Committee on Transportation and
20 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives,
21 and to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
22 and Transportation of the Senate, rotary wing
23 strategic plans prepared in accordance with sec-
24 tion 208(b) of the Coast Guard Authorization
25 Act of 2015.

26 “(b) CLOSURES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on January 1,
2 2018, the Secretary may not close a Coast Guard air
3 facility, except as specified by this section.

4 “(2) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary may
5 not propose closing or terminating operations at a
6 Coast Guard air facility unless the Secretary deter-
7 mines that—

8 “(A) remaining search and rescue capabili-
9 ties maintain the safety of the maritime public
10 in the area of the air facility;

11 “(B) regional or local prevailing weather
12 and marine conditions, including water tem-
13 peratures or unusual tide and current condi-
14 tions, do not require continued operation of the
15 air facility; and

16 “(C) Coast Guard search and rescue
17 standards related to search and response times
18 are met.

19 “(3) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Prior to
20 closing an air facility, the Secretary shall provide op-
21 portunities for public comment, including the con-
22 vening of public meetings in communities in the area
23 of responsibility of the air facility with regard to the
24 proposed closure or cessation of operations at the air
25 facility.

1 “(4) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Prior to closure,
2 cessation of operations, or any significant reduction
3 in personnel and use of a Coast Guard air facility
4 that is in operation on or after December 31, 2015,
5 the Secretary shall—

6 “(A) submit to the Congress a proposal for
7 such closure, cessation, or reduction in oper-
8 ations along with the budget of the President
9 submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of
10 title 31 for the fiscal year in which the action
11 will be carried out; and

12 “(B) not later than 7 days after the date
13 a proposal for an air facility is submitted pur-
14 suant to subparagraph (A), provide written no-
15 tice of such proposal to each of the following:

16 “(i) Each member of the House of
17 Representatives who represents a district
18 in which the air facility is located.

19 “(ii) Each member of the Senate who
20 represents a State in which the air facility
21 is located.

22 “(iii) Each member of the House of
23 Representatives who represents a district
24 in which assets of the air facility conduct
25 search and rescue operations.

1 “(iv) Each member of the Senate who
2 represents a State in which assets of the
3 air facility conduct search and rescue oper-
4 ations.

5 “(v) The Committee on Appropria-
6 tions of the House of Representatives.

7 “(vi) The Committee on Transpor-
8 tation and Infrastructure of the House of
9 Representatives.

10 “(vii) The Committee on Appropria-
11 tions of the Senate.

12 “(viii) The Committee on Commerce,
13 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

14 “(c) OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary
15 may implement any reasonable management efficiencies
16 within the air station and air facility network, such as
17 modifying the operational posture of units or reallocating
18 resources as necessary to ensure the safety of the mari-
19 time public nationwide.”.

20 (b) ROTARY WING STRATEGIC PLANS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the depart-
22 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
23 prepare the plans specified in paragraph (2) to ade-
24 quately address contingencies arising from potential
25 future aviation casualties or the planned or un-

1 planned retirement of rotary wing airframes to avoid
2 to the greatest extent practicable any substantial
3 gap or diminishment in Coast Guard operational ca-
4 pabilities.

5 (2) ROTARY WING STRATEGIC PLANS.—

6 (A) ROTARY WING CONTINGENCY PLAN.—

7 Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the depart-
9 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating
10 shall develop and submit to the Committee on
11 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
12 of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
13 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
14 ate a contingency plan—

15 (i) to address the planned or un-
16 planned losses of rotary wing airframes;

17 (ii) to reallocate resources as nec-
18 essary to ensure the safety of the maritime
19 public nationwide; and

20 (iii) to ensure the operational posture
21 of Coast Guard units.

22 (B) ROTARY WING REPLACEMENT CAPITAL
23 INVESTMENT PLAN.—

24 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2
25 years after the date of enactment of this

1 Act, the Secretary of the department in
2 which the Coast Guard is operating shall
3 develop and submit to the Committee on
4 Transportation and Infrastructure of the
5 House of Representatives and the Com-
6 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
7 portation of the Senate a capital invest-
8 ment plan for the acquisition of new rotary
9 wing airframes to replace the Coast
10 Guard’s legacy helicopters and fulfil all ex-
11 isting mission requirements.

12 (ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan devel-
13 oped under this subparagraph shall pro-
14 vide—

15 (I) a total estimated cost for
16 completion;

17 (II) a timetable for completion of
18 the acquisition project and phased in
19 transition to new airframes; and

20 (III) projected annual funding
21 levels for each fiscal year.

22 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

23 (1) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 17.—The analysis
24 for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is

1 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 2 tion 676 the following:

“676a. Air facility closures.”.

3 (2) REPEAL OF PROHIBITION.—Section 225 of
 4 the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime
 5 Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281;
 6 128 Stat. 3022) is amended—

7 (A) by striking subsection (b); and

8 (B) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”.

9 **SEC. 209. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14, UNITED**
 10 **STATES CODE.**

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

13 (1) in the analysis for part I, by striking the
 14 item relating to chapter 19 and inserting the fol-
 15 lowing:

**“19. Environmental Compliance and Restoration Pro-
 gram 690”;**

16 (2) in section 46(a), by striking “subsection”
 17 and inserting “section”;

18 (3) in section 47, in the section heading by
 19 striking “**commandant**” and inserting “**Com-**
 20 **mandant**”;

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

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

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

5 “(B) the lease amount is equal to the fair
6 market value of the use of the leased sub-
7 merged lands or tidelands for the period during
8 which such lands are leased, as determined by
9 the Commandant;

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

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

18 (5) in the analysis for chapter 9, by striking the
19 item relating to section 199 and inserting the fol-
20 lowing:

“199. Marine safety curriculum.”;

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

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

3 **SEC. 210. DISCONTINUANCE OF AN AID TO NAVIGATION.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
6 department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
7 establish a process for the discontinuance of an aid to
8 navigation (other than a seasonal or temporary aid) estab-
9 lished, maintained, or operated by the Coast Guard.

10 (b) **REQUIREMENT.**—The process established under
11 subsection (a) shall include procedures to notify the public
12 of any discontinuance of an aid to navigation described
13 in that subsection.

14 (c) **CONSULTATION.**—In establishing a process under
15 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with and con-
16 sider any recommendations of the Navigation Safety Advi-
17 sory Council.

18 (d) **NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 30 days after es-
19 tablishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary
20 shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
21 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
22 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
23 Senate of the process established.

1 **SEC. 211. MISSION PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
3 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
4 shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and In-
5 frastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of
6 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
7 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an as-
8 sessment of the efficacy of the Coast Guard's Standard
9 Operational Planning Process with respect to annual mis-
10 sion performance measures.

11 **SEC. 212. COMMUNICATIONS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Homeland Se-
13 curity determines that there are at least two communica-
14 tions systems described under paragraph (1)(B) and cer-
15 tified under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall establish
16 and carry out a pilot program across not less than three
17 components of the Department of Homeland Security to
18 assess the effectiveness of a communications system
19 that—

20 (1) provides for—

21 (A) multiagency collaboration and inter-
22 operability; and

23 (B) wide-area, secure, and peer-invitation-
24 and acceptance-based multimedia communica-
25 tions;

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

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

5 (b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the
6 date on which the pilot program is completed, the Sec-
7 retary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
8 and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
9 rity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
10 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Com-
11 mittee Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of
12 the Senate an assessment of the pilot program, including
13 the impacts of the program with respect to interagency
14 and Coast Guard response capabilities.

15 (c) STRATEGY.—The pilot program shall be con-
16 sistent with the strategy required by the Department of
17 Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act
18 (Public Law 114–29).

19 (d) TIMING.—The pilot program shall commence
20 within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act
21 or within 60 days after the completion of the strategy re-
22 quired by the Department of Homeland Security Inter-
23 operable Communications Act (Public Law 114–29),
24 whichever is later.

1 **SEC. 213. COAST GUARD GRADUATE MARITIME OPER-**
2 **ATIONS EDUCATION.**

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

8 (1) offers a master's degree in maritime oper-
9 ations;

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

12 (3) provides resident and distant education op-
13 tions, including the ability to utilize both options;
14 and

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

18 (A) is located near a significant number of
19 Coast Guard, maritime, and other Department
20 of Homeland Security law enforcement per-
21 sonnel; and

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

24 **SEC. 214. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

25 (a) **MULTIRATER ASSESSMENT.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 14,
2 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
3 section 428 the following:

4 **“§ 429. Multirater assessment of certain personnel**

5 “(a) MULTIRATER ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN PER-
6 SONNEL.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than
8 one year after the date of the enactment of the
9 Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Com-
10 mandant of the Coast Guard shall develop and im-
11 plement a plan to conduct every two years a
12 multirater assessment for each of the following:

13 “(A) Each flag officer of the Coast Guard.

14 “(B) Each member of the Senior Executive
15 Service of the Coast Guard.

16 “(C) Each officer of the Coast Guard nom-
17 inated for promotion to the grade of flag offi-
18 cer.

19 “(2) POST-ASSESSMENT ELEMENTS.—Following
20 an assessment of an individual pursuant to para-
21 graph (1), the individual shall be provided appro-
22 priate post-assessment counseling and leadership
23 coaching.

24 “(b) MULTIRATER ASSESSMENT DEFINED.—In this
25 section, the term ‘multirater assessment’ means a review

1 that seeks opinion from members senior to the reviewee
2 and the peers and subordinates of the reviewee.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at
4 the beginning of such chapter is amended by insert-
5 ing after the item related to section 428 the fol-
6 lowing:

“429. Multirater assessment of certain personnel.”.

7 (b) TRAINING COURSE ON WORKINGS OF CON-
8 GRESS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United
10 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 **“§ 60. Training course on workings of Congress**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
14 the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authoriza-
15 tion Act of 2015, the Commandant, in consultation with
16 the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy and such
17 other individuals and organizations as the Commandant
18 considers appropriate, shall develop a training course on
19 the workings of the Congress and offer that training
20 course at least once each year.

21 “(b) COURSE SUBJECT MATTER.—The training
22 course required by this section shall provide an overview
23 and introduction to the Congress and the Federal legisla-
24 tive process, including—

1 “(1) the history and structure of the Congress
2 and the committee systems of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives and the Senate, including the functions
4 and responsibilities of the Committee on Transpor-
5 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Represent-
6 atives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
7 and Transportation of the Senate;

8 “(2) the documents produced by the Congress,
9 including bills, resolutions, committee reports, and
10 conference reports, and the purposes and functions
11 of those documents;

12 “(3) the legislative processes and rules of the
13 House of Representatives and the Senate, including
14 similarities and differences between the two proc-
15 esses and rules, including—

16 “(A) the congressional budget process;

17 “(B) the congressional authorization and
18 appropriation processes;

19 “(C) the Senate advice and consent process
20 for Presidential nominees; and

21 “(D) the Senate advice and consent proc-
22 ess for treaty ratification;

23 “(4) the roles of Members of Congress and con-
24 gressional staff in the legislative process; and

1 “(5) the concept and underlying purposes of
2 congressional oversight within our governance frame-
3 work of separation of powers.

4 “(c) LECTURERS AND PANELISTS.—

5 “(1) OUTSIDE EXPERTS.—The Commandant
6 shall ensure that not less than 60 percent of the lec-
7 turers, panelists, and other individuals providing
8 education and instruction as part of the training
9 course required by this section are experts on the
10 Congress and the Federal legislative process who are
11 not employed by the executive branch of the Federal
12 Government.

13 “(2) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT PRO BONO SERV-
14 ICES.—In satisfying the requirement under para-
15 graph (1), the Commandant shall seek, and may ac-
16 cept, educational and instructional services of lec-
17 turers, panelists, and other individuals and organiza-
18 tions provided to the Coast Guard on a pro bono
19 basis.

20 “(d) COMPLETION OF REQUIRED TRAINING.—

21 “(1) CURRENT FLAG OFFICERS AND EMPLOY-
22 EES.—A Coast Guard flag officer appointed or as-
23 signed to a billet in the National Capital Region on
24 the date of the enactment of this section, and a
25 Coast Guard Senior Executive Service employee em-

1 employed in the National Capital Region on the date of
2 the enactment of this section, shall complete a train-
3 ing course that meets the requirements of this sec-
4 tion within 60 days after the date on which the
5 Commandant completes the development of the
6 training course.

7 “(2) NEW FLAG OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—
8 A Coast Guard flag officer who is newly appointed
9 or assigned to a billet in the National Capital Re-
10 gion, and a Coast Guard Senior Executive Service
11 employee who is newly employed in the National
12 Capital Region, shall complete a training course that
13 meets the requirements of this section not later than
14 60 days after reporting for duty.”.

15 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at
16 the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
17 at the end the following:

“60. Training course on workings of Congress.”.

18 (c) REPORT ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the
22 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
23 tation of the Senate and the Committee on Trans-
24 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-

1 representatives a report on Coast Guard leadership de-
2 velopment.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include the
4 following:

5 (A) An assessment of the feasibility of—

6 (i) all officers (other than officers cov-
7 ered by section 429(a) of title 14, United
8 States Code, as amended by this section)
9 completing a multirater assessment;

10 (ii) all members (other than officers
11 covered by such section) in command posi-
12 tions completing a multirater assessment;

13 (iii) all enlisted members in a super-
14 visory position completing a multirater as-
15 sessment; and

16 (iv) members completing periodic
17 multirater assessments.

18 (B) Such recommendations as the Com-
19 mandant considers appropriate for the imple-
20 mentation or expansion of a multirater assess-
21 ment in the personnel development programs of
22 the Coast Guard.

23 (C) An overview of each of the current
24 leadership development courses of the Coast
25 Guard, an assessment of the feasibility of the

1 expansion of any such course, and a description
2 of the resources, if any, required to expand
3 such courses.

4 (D) An assessment on the state of leader-
5 ship training in the Coast Guard, and rec-
6 ommendations on the implementation of a pol-
7 icy to prevent leadership that has adverse ef-
8 fects on subordinates, the organization, or mis-
9 sion performance, including—

10 (i) a description of methods that will
11 be used by the Coast Guard to identify,
12 monitor, and counsel individuals whose
13 leadership may have adverse effects on
14 subordinates, the organization, or mission
15 performance;

16 (ii) the implementation of leadership
17 recognition training to recognize such lead-
18 ership in one's self and others;

19 (iii) the establishment of procedures
20 for the administrative separation of leaders
21 whose leadership may have adverse effects
22 on subordinates, the organization, or mis-
23 sion performance; and

24 (iv) a description of the resources
25 needed to implement this section.

1 **SEC. 215. SENIOR ENLISTED MEMBER CONTINUATION**
2 **BOARDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 357 of title 14, United
4 States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by striking subsections (a) through (h) and
6 subsection (j); and

7 (2) in subsection (i), by striking “(i)”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

9 (1) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of
10 such section is amended to read as follows:

11 **“§ 357. Retirement of enlisted members: increase in**
12 **retired pay”.**

13 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at
14 the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is amended
15 by striking the item relating to such section and in-
16 serting the following:

“357. Retirement of enlisted members: increase in retired pay.”.

17 **SEC. 216. COAST GUARD MEMBER PAY.**

18 (a) ANNUAL AUDIT OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF
19 MEMBERS UNDERGOING PERMANENT CHANGE OF STA-
20 TION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 14,
22 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
23 end the following:

1 **“§ 519. Annual audit of pay and allowances of mem-**
2 **bers undergoing permanent change of**
3 **station**

4 “The Commandant shall conduct each calendar year
5 an audit of member pay and allowances for the members
6 who transferred to new units during such calendar year.
7 The audit for a calendar year shall be completed by the
8 end of the calendar year.”.

9 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at
10 the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
11 at the end the following:

“519. Annual audit of pay and allowances of members undergoing permanent
change of station.”.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the
14 Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce,
15 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
16 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
17 of Representatives a report on alternative methods for no-
18 tifying members of the Coast Guard of their monthly earn-
19 ings. The report shall include—

20 (1) an assessment of the feasibility of providing
21 members a monthly notification of their earnings,
22 categorized by pay and allowance type; and

23 (2) a description and assessment of mechanisms
24 that may be used to provide members with notifica-

1 tion of their earnings, categorized by pay and allow-
2 ance type.

3 **SEC. 217. TRANSFER OF FUNDS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE**
4 **MEDICAL CARE.**

5 (a) **TRANSFER REQUIRED.**—In lieu of the reimburse-
6 ment required under section 1085 of title 10, United
7 States Code, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall
8 transfer to the Secretary of Defense an amount that rep-
9 resents the actuarial valuation of treatment or care—

10 (1) that the Department of Defense shall pro-
11 vide to members of the Coast Guard, former mem-
12 bers of the Coast Guard, and dependents of such
13 members and former members (other than former
14 members and dependents of former members who
15 are a Medicare-eligible beneficiary or for whom the
16 payment for treatment or care is made from the
17 Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund) at fa-
18 cilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of
19 Defense or a military department; and

20 (2) for which a reimbursement would otherwise
21 be made under section 1085.

22 (b) **AMOUNT.**—The amount transferred under sub-
23 section (a) shall be—

24 (1) in the case of treatment or care to be pro-
25 vided to members of the Coast Guard and their de-

1 dependents, derived from amounts appropriated for the
2 operating expenses of the Coast Guard;

3 (2) in the case of treatment or care to be pro-
4 vided former members of the Coast Guard and their
5 dependents, derived from amounts appropriated for
6 retired pay;

7 (3) determined under procedures established by
8 the Secretary of Defense;

9 (4) transferred during the fiscal year in which
10 treatment or care is provided; and

11 (5) subject to adjustment or reconciliation as
12 the Secretaries determine appropriate during or
13 promptly after such fiscal year in cases in which the
14 amount transferred is determined excessive or insuf-
15 ficient based on the services actually provided.

16 (c) NO TRANSFER WHEN SERVICE IN NAVY.—No
17 transfer shall be made under this section for any period
18 during which the Coast Guard operates as a service in the
19 Navy.

20 (d) RELATIONSHIP TO TRICARE.—This section
21 shall not be construed to require a payment for, or the
22 transfer of an amount that represents the value of, treat-
23 ment or care provided under any TRICARE program.

1 **SEC. 218. PARTICIPATION OF THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY**
2 **IN FEDERAL, STATE, OR OTHER EDU-**
3 **CATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS.**

4 Section 196 of title 14, United States Code, is
5 amended—

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

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

9 “(b) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the
11 Coast Guard may—

12 “(A) enter into a contract, cooperative
13 agreement, lease, or licensing agreement with a
14 qualified organization;

15 “(B) allow a qualified organization to use,
16 at no cost, personal property of the Coast
17 Guard; and

18 “(C) notwithstanding section 93, accept
19 funds, supplies, and services from a qualified
20 organization.

21 “(2) SOLE-SOURCE BASIS.—Notwithstanding
22 chapter 65 of title 31 and chapter 137 of title 10,
23 the Commandant may enter into a contract or coop-
24 erative agreement under paragraph (1)(A) on a sole-
25 source basis.

1 “(3) MAINTAINING FAIRNESS, OBJECTIVITY,
2 AND INTEGRITY.—The Commandant shall ensure
3 that contributions under this subsection do not—

4 “(A) reflect unfavorably on the ability of
5 the Coast Guard, any of its employees, or any
6 member of the armed forces to carry out any
7 responsibility or duty in a fair and objective
8 manner; or

9 “(B) compromise the integrity or appear-
10 ance of integrity of any program of the Coast
11 Guard, or any individual involved in such a pro-
12 gram.

13 “(4) LIMITATION.—For purposes of this sub-
14 section, employees or personnel of a qualified organi-
15 zation shall not be employees of the United States.

16 “(5) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In
17 this subsection the term ‘qualified organization’
18 means an organization—

19 “(A) described under section 501(c)(3) of
20 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt
21 from taxation under section 501(a) of that
22 Code; and

23 “(B) established by the Coast Guard Acad-
24 emy Alumni Association solely for the purpose
25 of supporting academic research and applying

1 for and administering Federal, State, or other
2 educational research grants on behalf of the
3 Coast Guard Academy.”.

4 **SEC. 219. NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM.**

5 Section 98(b) of title 14, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “any appro-
8 priated Federal funds for” and insert “any funds
9 appropriated to the Coast Guard on”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “artifacts.”
11 and inserting “artifacts, including the design, fab-
12 rication, and installation of exhibits or displays in
13 which such artifacts are included.”.

14 **SEC. 220. INVESTIGATIONS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 14, United
16 States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 **“§ 430. Investigations of flag officers and Senior Exec-
19 utive Service employees**

20 “In conducting an investigation into an allegation of
21 misconduct by a flag officer or member of the Senior Ex-
22 ecutive Service serving in the Coast Guard, the Inspector
23 General of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

1 “(1) conduct the investigation in a manner con-
2 sistent with Department of Defense policies for such
3 an investigation; and

4 “(2) consult with the Inspector General of the
5 Department of Defense.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the be-
7 ginning of such chapter is further amended by inserting
8 after the item related to section 429 the following:

 “430. Investigations of flag officers and Senior Executive Service employees.”.

9 **SEC. 221. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF**
10 **THE COAST GUARD FOR COMBAT-RELATED**
11 **SPECIAL COMPENSATION.**

12 (a) CONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
15 of the department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
16 ating shall issue procedures and criteria to use in
17 determining whether the disability of a member of
18 the Coast Guard is a combat-related disability for
19 purposes of the eligibility of such member for com-
20 bat-related special compensation under section
21 1413a of title 10, United States Code. Such proce-
22 dures and criteria shall include the procedures and
23 criteria prescribed by the Secretary of Defense pur-
24 suant to subsection (e)(2) of such section. Such pro-
25 cedures and criteria shall apply in determining

1 whether the disability of a member of the Coast
2 Guard is a combat-related disability for purposes of
3 determining the eligibility of such member for com-
4 bat-related special compensation under such section.

5 (2) DISABILITY FOR WHICH A DETERMINATION
6 IS MADE.—For the purposes of this section, and in
7 the case of a member of the Coast Guard, a dis-
8 ability under section 1413a(e)(2)(B) of title 10,
9 United States Code, includes a disability incurred
10 during aviation duty, diving duty, rescue swimmer or
11 similar duty, and hazardous service duty onboard a
12 small vessel (such as duty as a surfman)—

13 (A) in the performance of duties for which
14 special or incentive pay was paid pursuant to
15 section 301, 301a, 304, 307, 334, or 351 of
16 title 37, United States Code;

17 (B) in the performance of duties related
18 to—

19 (i) law enforcement, including drug or
20 migrant interdiction;

21 (ii) defense readiness; or

22 (iii) search and rescue; or

23 (C) while engaged in a training exercise for
24 the performance of a duty described in subpara-
25 graphs (A) and (B).

1 (b) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDANCE.—The guidance
2 issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall apply to disabilities
3 described in that subsection that are incurred on or after
4 the effective date provided in section 636(a)(2) of the Bob
5 Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
6 Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2574; 10
7 U.S.C. 1413a note).

8 (c) REAPPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION.—Any
9 member of the Coast Guard who was denied combat-re-
10 lated special compensation under section 1413a of title 10,
11 United States Code, during the period beginning on the
12 effective date specified in subsection (b) and ending on
13 the date of the issuance of the guidance required by sub-
14 section (a) may reapply for combat-related special com-
15 pensation under such section on the basis of such guidance
16 in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary of
17 the department in which the Coast Guard is operating
18 shall specify.

19 **SEC. 222. LEAVE POLICIES FOR THE COAST GUARD.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 14, United
21 States Code, is further amended by inserting after section
22 430 the following:

23 **“§ 431. Leave policies for the Coast Guard**

24 “Not later than 1 year after the date on which the
25 Secretary of the Navy promulgates a new rule, policy, or

1 memorandum pursuant to section 704 of title 10, United
 2 States Code, with respect to leave associated with the birth
 3 or adoption of a child, the Secretary of the department
 4 in which the Coast Guard is operating shall promulgate
 5 a similar rule, policy, or memorandum that provides leave
 6 to officers and enlisted members of the Coast Guard that
 7 is equal in duration and compensation to that provided
 8 by the Secretary of the Navy.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the be-
 10 ginning of such chapter is further amended by inserting
 11 after the item related to section 430 the following:

“431. Leave policies for the Coast Guard.”.

12 **TITLE III—SHIPPING AND**
 13 **NAVIGATION**

14 **SEC. 301. SURVIVAL CRAFT.**

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

17 **“§ 3104. Survival craft**

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

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

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

1 “(b) HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY.—The Sec-
2 retary may revise part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code
3 of Federal Regulations, as in effect before January 1,
4 2016, if such revision provides a higher standard of safety
5 than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before
6 the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authoriza-
7 tion Act of 2015.

8 “(c) INNOVATIVE AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Sec-
9 retary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part
10 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations,
11 as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast
12 Guard Authorization Act of 2015, allow a passenger vessel
13 to be equipped with a life-saving appliance or arrangement
14 of an innovative or novel design that—

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

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

20 “(d) BUILT DEFINED.—In this section, the term
21 ‘built’ has the meaning that term has under section
22 4503(e).”.

23 (b) REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—

24 (1) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31,
25 2016, the Secretary of the department in which the

1 Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Com-
2 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
3 House of Representatives and the Committee on
4 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
5 ate a review of—

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

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

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

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

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

23 (iii) the costs, the incremental cost
24 difference to vessel operators, and the cost
25 effectiveness of requiring the carriage of

1 such survival craft to address the risks to
2 individuals with disabilities, children, and
3 the elderly;

4 (D) the efficacy of alternative safety sys-
5 tems, devices, or measures in improving surviv-
6 ability of individuals with disabilities, children,
7 and the elderly; and

8 (E) the number of small businesses and
9 nonprofit vessel operators that would be af-
10 fected by requiring the carriage of such survival
11 craft on passenger vessels to address the risks
12 to individuals with disabilities, children, and the
13 elderly.

14 (2) REVISION.—Based on the review conducted
15 under paragraph (1), the Secretary may revise regu-
16 lations concerning the carriage of survival craft pur-
17 suant to section 3104(c) of title 46, United States
18 Code.

19 **SEC. 302. VESSEL REPLACEMENT.**

20 (a) LOANS AND GUARANTEES.—Chapter 537 of title
21 46, United States Code, is amended—

22 (1) in section 53701—

23 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (8)
24 through (14) as paragraphs (9) through (15),
25 respectively; and

1 (B) by inserting after paragraph (7) the
2 following:

3 “(8) HISTORICAL USES.—The term ‘historical
4 uses’ includes—

5 “(A) refurbishing, repairing, rebuilding, or
6 replacing equipment on a fishing vessel, without
7 materially increasing harvesting capacity;

8 “(B) purchasing a used fishing vessel;

9 “(C) purchasing, constructing, expanding,
10 or reconditioning a fishery facility;

11 “(D) refinancing existing debt;

12 “(E) reducing fishing capacity; and

13 “(F) making upgrades to a fishing vessel,
14 including upgrades in technology, gear, or
15 equipment, that improve—

16 “(i) collection and reporting of fish-
17 ery-dependent data;

18 “(ii) bycatch reduction or avoidance;

19 “(iii) gear selectivity;

20 “(iv) adverse impacts caused by fish-
21 ing gear; or

22 “(v) safety.”; and

23 (2) in section 53702(b), by adding at the end
24 the following:

1 “(3) MINIMUM OBLIGATIONS AVAILABLE FOR
2 HISTORIC USES.—Of the direct loan obligations
3 issued by the Secretary under this chapter, the Sec-
4 retary shall make a minimum of \$59,000,000 avail-
5 able each fiscal year for historic uses.

6 “(4) USE OF OBLIGATIONS IN LIMITED ACCESS
7 FISHERIES.—In addition to the other eligible pur-
8 poses and uses of direct loan obligations provided for
9 in this chapter, the Secretary may issue direct loan
10 obligations for the purpose of—

11 “(A) financing the construction or recon-
12 struction of a fishing vessel in a fishery man-
13 aged under a limited access system; or

14 “(B) financing the purchase of harvesting
15 rights in a fishery that is federally managed
16 under a limited access system.”.

17 (b) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION TO CERTAIN FISH-
18 ING VESSELS OF PROHIBITION UNDER VESSEL CON-
19 STRUCTION PROGRAM.—Section 302(b)(2) of the Fish-
20 eries Financing Act (title III of Public Law 104–297; 46
21 U.S.C. 53706 note) is amended—

22 (1) in the second sentence—

23 (A) by striking “or in” and inserting “,
24 in”; and

1 (B) by inserting before the period the fol-
2 lowing: “, in fisheries that are under the juris-
3 diction of the North Pacific Fishery Manage-
4 ment Council and managed under a fishery
5 management plan issued under the Magnuson-
6 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management
7 Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), or in the Pacific
8 whiting fishery that is under the jurisdiction of
9 the Pacific Fishery Management Council and
10 managed under a fishery management plan
11 issued under that Act”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following: “Any
13 fishing vessel operated in fisheries under the juris-
14 diction of the North Pacific Fishery Management
15 Council and managed under a fishery management
16 plan issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
17 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801
18 et seq.), or in the Pacific whiting fishery under the
19 jurisdiction of the Pacific Fishery Management
20 Council and managed under a fishery management
21 plan issued under that Act, and that is replaced by
22 a vessel that is constructed or rebuilt with a loan or
23 loan guarantee provided by the Federal Government
24 may not be used to harvest fish in any fishery under
25 the jurisdiction of any regional fishery management

1 council, other than a fishery under the jurisdiction
2 of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council or
3 the Pacific Fishery Management Council.”.

4 **SEC. 303. 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 fol-
7 lowing:

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

12 “(A) begin on June 1 of a year and end on July
13 31 of the following year; and

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

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

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

1 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
3 department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
4 publish guidance to implement section 4302(d)(2) of title
5 46, United States Code.

6 **SEC. 304. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL EXPIRATION**
7 **HARMONIZATION.**

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

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

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

22 (2) results in harmonization of expiration dates
23 for merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical
24 certificates, and radar observer endorsements for all

1 individuals by not later than 6 years after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act.

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

5 (1) holding a merchant mariner credential
6 with—

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

9 (B) Federal first-class pilot endorsement;

10 or

11 (2) who have been issued a time-restricted med-
12 ical certificate.

13 **SEC. 305. SAFETY ZONES FOR PERMITTED MARINE EVENTS.**

14 Not later than 6 months after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which
16 the Coast Guard is operating shall establish and imple-
17 ment a process to—

18 (1) account for the number of safety zones es-
19 tablished for permitted marine events;

20 (2) differentiate whether the event sponsor who
21 requested a permit for such an event is—

22 (A) an individual;

23 (B) an organization; or

24 (C) a government entity; and

1 (3) account for Coast Guard resources utilized
2 to enforce safety zones established for permitted ma-
3 rine events, including for—

4 (A) the number of Coast Guard or Coast
5 Guard Auxiliary vessels used; and

6 (B) the number of Coast Guard or Coast
7 Guard Auxiliary patrol hours required.

8 **SEC. 306. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

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

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

13 (2) in section 2118—

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

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

19 (3) in the analysis for chapter 35—

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

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

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

- 1 (5) in section 4506, by striking “(a)”;
- 2 (6) in section 8103(b)(1)(A)(iii), by striking
3 “Academy.” and inserting “Academy; and”;
- 4 (7) in section 11113(e)(1)(A)(i), by striking
5 “under this Act”;
- 6 (8) in the analysis for chapter 701—
- 7 (A) by adding a period at the end of the
8 item relating to section 70107A;
- 9 (B) in the item relating to section 70112,
10 by striking “security advisory committees.” and
11 inserting “Security Advisory Committees.”; and
- 12 (C) in the item relating to section 70122,
13 by striking “watch program.” and inserting
14 “Watch Program.”;
- 15 (9) in section 70105(c)—
- 16 (A) in paragraph (1)(B)(xv)—
- 17 (i) by striking “18, popularly” and in-
18 serting “18 (popularly”;
- 19 (ii) by striking “Act” and inserting
20 “Act)”; and
- 21 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “(D)
22 paragraph” and inserting “(D) of paragraph”;
- 23 (10) in section 70107—

1 (A) in subsection (b)(2), by striking
2 “5121(j)(8),” and inserting “5196(j)(8),”;
3 and

4 (B) in subsection (m)(3)(C)(iii), by strik-
5 ing “that is” and inserting “that the appli-
6 cant”;

7 (11) in section 70122, in the section heading,
8 by striking “**watch program**” and inserting
9 “**Watch Program**”; and

10 (12) in the analysis for chapter 705, by adding
11 a period at the end of the item relating to section
12 70508.

13 (b) GENERAL BRIDGE STATUTES.—

14 (1) ACT OF MARCH 3, 1899.—The Act of March
15 3, 1899, popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors
16 Appropriations Act of 1899, is amended—

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

22 (B) in section 18 (33 U.S.C. 502), by
23 striking “Secretary of Transportation” each
24 place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the

1 department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
2 ating”.

3 (2) ACT OF MARCH 23, 1906.—The Act of March
4 23, 1906, popularly known as the Bridge Act of
5 1906, is amended—

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

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

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

19 (3) ACT OF AUGUST 18, 1894.—Section 5 of the
20 Act entitled “An Act making appropriations for the
21 construction, repair, and preservation of certain pub-
22 lic works on rivers and harbors, and for other pur-
23 poses”, approved August 18, 1894 (33 U.S.C. 499),
24 is amended by striking “Secretary of Transpor-
25 tation” each place it appears and inserting “Sec-

1 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard
2 is operating”.

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

6 (A) in section 1 (33 U.S.C. 511), by strik-
7 ing “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting
8 “Secretary of the department in which the
9 Coast Guard is operating”;

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

14 (C) in section 7 (33 U.S.C. 517), 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 and

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

23 (5) GENERAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1946.—The Gen-
24 eral Bridge Act of 1946 is amended—

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

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

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

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

16 (B) in section 8 (33 U.S.C. 535e), by
17 striking “Secretary of Transportation” each
18 place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the
19 department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
20 ating”; and

21 (C) by striking section 11 (33 U.S.C.
22 535h).

1 **SEC. 307. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF MA-**
2 **RINE CASUALTY REPORTING.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard
5 shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
6 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
7 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
8 Senate of the actions the Commandant will take to imple-
9 ment recommendations on improvements to the Coast
10 Guard’s marine casualty reporting requirements and pro-
11 cedures included in—

12 (1) the Department of Homeland Security Of-
13 fice of Inspector General report entitled “Marine Ac-
14 cident Reporting, Investigations, and Enforcement
15 in the United States Coast Guard”, released on May
16 23, 2013; and

17 (2) the Towing Safety Advisory Committee re-
18 port entitled “Recommendations for Improvement of
19 Marine Casualty Reporting”, released on March 26,
20 2015.

21 **SEC. 308. RECREATIONAL VESSEL ENGINE WEIGHTS.**

22 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which
24 the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations
25 amending table 4 to subpart H of part 183 of title 33,
26 Code of Federal Regulations (relating to Weights

1 (Pounds) of Outboard Motor and Related Equipment for
2 Various Boat Horsepower Ratings), as appropriate to re-
3 flect “Standard 30–Outboard Engine and Related Equip-
4 ment Weights” published by the American Boat and Yacht
5 Council, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this
6 Act.

7 **SEC. 309. MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION**
8 **REFORM.**

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

12 **“§ 7509. Medical certification by trusted agents**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
14 vision of law and pursuant to regulations prescribed by
15 the Secretary, a trusted agent may issue a medical certifi-
16 cate to an individual who—

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

21 “(2) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and phys-
22 ical condition to perform the duties of such license,
23 certificate, document, or endorsement, as determined
24 by the trusted agent.

1 “(b) PROCESS FOR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES BY
2 SECRETARY.—A final rule implementing this section shall
3 include a process for—

4 “(1) the Secretary of the department in which
5 the Coast Guard is operating to issue medical certifi-
6 cates to mariners who submit applications for such
7 certificates to the Secretary; and

8 “(2) a trusted agent to defer to the Secretary
9 the issuance of a medical certificate.

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

15 (b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 5 years after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
17 department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
18 issue a final rule implementing section 7509 of title 46,
19 United States Code, as added by this section.

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

“7509. Medical certification by trusted agents.”.

22 **SEC. 310. ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.**

23 (a) ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE
24 STUDY.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Commandant
25 of the Coast Guard shall conclude the Atlantic Coast Port

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

5 (b) NANTUCKET SOUND.—Not later than December
6 1, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall com-
7 plete and submit to the Committee on Transportation and
8 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
10 the Senate a port access route study of Nantucket Sound
11 using the standards and methodology of the Atlantic Coast
12 Port Access Route Study, to determine whether the Coast
13 Guard should revise existing regulations to improve navi-
14 gation safety in Nantucket Sound due to factors such as
15 increased vessel traffic, changing vessel traffic patterns,
16 weather conditions, or navigational difficulty in the vicin-
17 ity.

18 **SEC. 311. CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR REC-**
19 **REATIONAL VESSELS.**

20 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which
22 the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations
23 that—

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

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

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

7 (B) apply for a new certificate of docu-
8 mentation for such a vessel if there is any such
9 change.

10 **SEC. 312. PROGRAM GUIDELINES.**

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

13 (1) develop guidelines to implement the pro-
14 gram authorized under section 304(a) of the Coast
15 Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006
16 (Public Law 109–241), including specific actions to
17 ensure the future availability of able and
18 credentialed United States licensed and unlicensed
19 seafarers including—

20 (A) incentives to encourage partnership
21 agreements with operators of foreign-flag ves-
22 sels that carry liquified natural gas, that pro-
23 vide no less than one training billet per vessel
24 for United States merchant mariners in order

1 to meet minimum mandatory sea service re-
2 quirements;

3 (B) development of appropriate training
4 curricula for use by public and private maritime
5 training institutions to meet all United States
6 merchant mariner license, certification, and
7 document laws and requirements under the
8 International Convention on Standards of
9 Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for
10 Seafarers, 1978; and

11 (C) steps to promote greater outreach and
12 awareness of additional job opportunities for
13 sea service veterans of the United States Armed
14 Forces; and

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

19 **SEC. 313. REPEALS.**

20 (a) REPEALS, MERCHANT MARINE ACT, 1936.—Sec-
21 tions 601 through 606, 608 through 611, 613 through
22 616, 802, and 809 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46
23 U.S.C. 53101 note) are repealed.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 575 of
25 title 46, United States Code, is amended—

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

3 (2) in section 57531(a), by striking “titles V
4 and VI” and inserting “title V”.

5 (c) TRANSFER FROM MERCHANT MARINE ACT,
6 1936.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 801 of the Merchant
8 Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note)—

9 (A) is redesignated as section 57522 of
10 title 46, United States Code, and transferred to
11 appear after section 57521 of such title; and

12 (B) as so redesignated and transferred, is
13 amended—

14 (i) by striking so much as precedes
15 the first sentence and inserting the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “§ 57522. **Books and records, balance sheets, and in-**
18 **spection and auditing”;**

19 (ii) by striking “the provision of title
20 VI or VII of this Act” and inserting “this
21 chapter”; and

22 (iii) by striking “: *Provided*, That”
23 and all that follows through “Commis-
24 sion”.

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

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

5 (d) REPEALS, TITLE 46, U.S.C.—Section 8103 of
6 title 46, United States Code, is amended in subsections
7 (c) and (d) by striking “or operating” each place it ap-
8 pears.

9 **SEC. 314. MARITIME DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

10 (a) PROHIBITIONS.—Section 70503(a) of title 46,
11 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

12 “(a) PROHIBITIONS.—While on board a covered ves-
13 sel, an individual may not knowingly or intentionally—

14 “(1) manufacture or distribute, or possess with
15 intent to manufacture or distribute, a controlled sub-
16 stance;

17 “(2) destroy (including jettisoning any item or
18 scuttling, burning, or hastily cleaning a vessel), or
19 attempt or conspire to destroy, property that is sub-
20 ject to forfeiture under section 511(a) of the Com-
21 prehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act
22 of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 881(a)); or

23 “(3) conceal, or attempt or conspire to conceal,
24 more than \$100,000 in currency or other monetary
25 instruments on the person of such individual or in

1 any conveyance, article of luggage, merchandise, or
2 other container, or compartment of or aboard the
3 covered vessel if that vessel is outfitted for smug-
4 gling.”.

5 (b) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—Section 70503 of
6 title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

8 “(e) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—In this section
9 the term ‘covered vessel’ means—

10 “(1) a vessel of the United States or a vessel
11 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or

12 “(2) any other vessel if the individual is a cit-
13 izen of the United States or a resident alien of the
14 United States.”.

15 (c) PENALTIES.—Section 70506 of title 46, United
16 States Code, is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “A person vio-
18 lating section 70503” and inserting “A person vio-
19 lating paragraph (1) of section 70503(a)”; and

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

21 “(d) PENALTY.—A person violating paragraph (2) or
22 (3) of section 70503(a) shall be fined in accordance with
23 section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned not more than 15
24 years, or both.”.

1 (d) SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE.—Section 70507(a)
2 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking
3 “section 70503” and inserting “section 70503 or 70508”.

4 (e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) The heading of section 70503 of title 46,
6 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 **“§ 70503. Prohibited acts”.**

8 (2) The analysis for chapter 705 of title 46,
9 United States Code, is further amended by striking
10 the item relating to section 70503 and inserting the
11 following:

“70503. Prohibited acts.”.

12 **SEC. 315. EXAMINATIONS FOR MERCHANT MARINER CRE-**
13 **DENTIALS.**

14 (a) DISCLOSURE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46,
16 United States Code, is further amended by adding
17 at the end the following:

18 **“§ 7510. Examinations for merchant mariner creden-**
19 **tials**

20 “(a) DISCLOSURE NOT REQUIRED.—Notwith-

21 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary is not
22 required to disclose to the public—

23 “(1) a question from any examination for a
24 merchant mariner credential;

1 “(2) the answer to such a question, including
2 any correct or incorrect answer that may be pre-
3 sented with such question; and

4 “(3) any quality or characteristic of such a
5 question, including—

6 “(A) the manner in which such question
7 has been, is, or may be selected for an examina-
8 tion;

9 “(B) the frequency of such selection; and

10 “(C) the frequency that an examinee cor-
11 rectly or incorrectly answered such question.

12 “(b) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN QUESTIONS.—Not-
13 withstanding subsection (a), the Secretary may, for the
14 purpose of preparation by the general public for examina-
15 tions required for merchant mariner credentials, release
16 an examination question and answer that the Secretary
17 has retired or is not presently on or part of an examina-
18 tion, or that the Secretary determines is appropriate for
19 release.

20 “(c) EXAM REVIEW.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
22 after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard
23 Authorization Act of 2015, and once every two years
24 thereafter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard
25 shall commission a working group to review new

1 questions for inclusion in examinations required for
2 merchant mariner credentials, composed of—

3 “(A) 1 subject matter expert from the
4 Coast Guard;

5 “(B) representatives from training facili-
6 ties and the maritime industry, of whom—

7 “(i) one-half shall be representatives
8 from approved training facilities; and

9 “(ii) one-half shall be representatives
10 from the appropriate maritime industry;

11 “(C) at least 1 representative from the
12 Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Com-
13 mittee;

14 “(D) at least 2 representatives from the
15 State maritime academies, of whom one shall be
16 a representative from the deck training track
17 and one shall be a representative of the engine
18 license track;

19 “(E) representatives from other Coast
20 Guard Federal advisory committees, as appro-
21 priate, for the industry segment associated with
22 the subject examinations;

23 “(F) at least 1 subject matter expert from
24 the Maritime Administration; and

1 “(G) at least 1 human performance tech-
2 nology representative.

3 “(2) INCLUSION OF PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE
4 ABOUT EXAMINATION TYPE.—The working group
5 shall include representatives knowledgeable about
6 the examination type under review.

7 “(3) LIMITATION.—The requirement to convene
8 a working group under paragraph (1) does not apply
9 unless there are new examination questions to re-
10 view.

11 “(4) BASELINE REVIEW.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after
13 the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard
14 Authorization Act of 2015, the Secretary shall
15 convene the working group to complete a base-
16 line review of the Coast Guard’s Merchant Mar-
17 iner Credentialing Examination, including re-
18 view of—

19 “(i) the accuracy of examination ques-
20 tions;

21 “(ii) the accuracy and availability of
22 examination references;

23 “(iii) the length of merchant mariner
24 examinations; and

1 “(iv) the use of standard technologies
2 in administering, scoring, and analyzing
3 the examinations.

4 “(B) PROGRESS REPORT.—The Coast
5 Guard shall provide a progress report to the ap-
6 propriate congressional committees on the re-
7 view under this paragraph.

8 “(5) FULL MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED.—The
9 Coast Guard may convene the working group with-
10 out all members present if any non-Coast-Guard
11 representative is present.

12 “(6) NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT.—The Sec-
13 retary shall require all members of the working
14 group to sign a nondisclosure agreement with the
15 Secretary.

16 “(7) TREATMENT OF MEMBERS AS FEDERAL
17 EMPLOYEES.—A member of the working group who
18 is not a Federal Government employee shall not be
19 considered a Federal employee in the service or the
20 employment of the Federal Government, except that
21 such a member shall be considered a special govern-
22 ment employee, as defined in section 202(a) of title
23 18 for purposes of sections 203, 205, 207, 208, and
24 209 of such title and shall be subject to any admin-
25 istrative standards of conduct applicable to an em-

1 ployee of the department in which the Coast Guard
2 is operating.

3 “(8) FORMAL EXAM REVIEW.—The Secretary
4 shall ensure that the Coast Guard Performance
5 Technology Center—

6 “(A) prioritizes the review of examinations
7 required for merchant mariner credentials; and

8 “(B) not later than 3 years after the date
9 of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization
10 Act of 2015, completes a formal review, includ-
11 ing an appropriate analysis, of the topics and
12 testing methodology employed by the National
13 Maritime Center for merchant seamen licensing.

14 “(9) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee
15 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to any working
16 group created under this section to review the Coast
17 Guard’s merchant mariner credentialing examina-
18 tions.

19 “(d) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL DE-
20 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘merchant mariner cre-
21 dential’ means a merchant seaman license, certificate, or
22 document that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursu-
23 ant to this title.”.

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

“7510. Examinations for merchant mariner credentials.”.

4 (b) EXAMINATIONS FOR MERCHANT MARINER CRE-
5 DENTIALS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 71 of title 46,
7 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
8 end the following:

9 **“§ 7116. Examinations for merchant mariner creden-**
10 **tials**

11 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SAMPLE EXAMS.—The Sec-
12 retary shall develop a sample merchant mariner credential
13 examination and outline of merchant mariner examination
14 topics on an annual basis.

15 “(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each sample examina-
16 tion and outline of topics developed under subsection (a)
17 shall be readily available to the public.

18 “(c) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL DEFINED.—
19 In this section, the term ‘merchant mariner credential’ has
20 the meaning that term has in section 7510.”.

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

“7116. Examinations for merchant mariner credentials.”.

1 (c) DISCLOSURE TO CONGRESS.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion may be construed to authorize the withholding of in-
3 formation from an appropriate inspector general, the
4 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
5 the Senate, or the Committee on Transportation and In-
6 frastructure of the House of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 316. HIGHER VOLUME PORT AREA REGULATORY DEFINITION CHANGE.**
8

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 710 of
10 the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law
11 111–281; 124 Stat. 2986) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(a) HIGHER VOLUME PORTS.—Notwithstanding
13 any other provision of law, the requirements of subparts
14 D, F, and G of part 155 of title 33, Code of Federal Regu-
15 lations, that apply to the higher volume port area for the
16 Strait of Juan de Fuca at Port Angeles, Washington (in-
17 cluding any water area within 50 nautical miles seaward),
18 to and including Puget Sound, shall apply, in the same
19 manner, and to the same extent, to the Strait of Juan
20 de Fuca at Cape Flattery, Washington (including any
21 water area within 50 nautical miles seaward), to and in-
22 cluding Puget Sound.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of
24 such section is amended by striking “the modification of
25 the higher volume port area definition required by sub-

1 section (a).” and inserting “higher volume port require-
2 ments made applicable under subsection (a).”.

3 **SEC. 317. RECOGNITION OF PORT SECURITY ASSESSMENTS**

4 **CONDUCTED BY OTHER ENTITIES.**

5 Section 70108 of title 46, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(f) RECOGNITION OF ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY
8 OTHER ENTITIES.—

9 “(1) CERTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF AS-
10 SSESSMENTS.—For the purposes of this section and
11 section 70109, the Secretary may treat an assess-
12 ment that a foreign government (including, for the
13 purposes of this subsection, an entity of or operating
14 under the auspices of the European Union) or inter-
15 national organization has conducted as an assess-
16 ment that the Secretary has conducted for the pur-
17 poses of subsection (a), provided that the Secretary
18 certifies that the foreign government or international
19 organization has—

20 “(A) conducted the assessment in accord-
21 ance with subsection (b); and

22 “(B) provided the Secretary with sufficient
23 information pertaining to its assessment (in-
24 cluding, but not limited to, information on the
25 outcome of the assessment).

1 “(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN
2 AGREEMENT.—For the purposes of this section and
3 section 70109, the Secretary, in consultation with
4 the Secretary of State, may enter into an agreement
5 with a foreign government (including, for the pur-
6 poses of this subsection, an entity of or operating
7 under the auspices of the European Union) or inter-
8 national organization, under which parties to the
9 agreement—

10 “(A) conduct an assessment, required
11 under subsection (a);

12 “(B) share information pertaining to such
13 assessment (including, but not limited to, infor-
14 mation on the outcome of the assessment); or

15 “(C) both.

16 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this subsection
17 shall be construed to—

18 “(A) require the Secretary to recognize an
19 assessment that a foreign government or an
20 international organization has conducted; or

21 “(B) limit the discretion or ability of the
22 Secretary to conduct an assessment under this
23 section.

24 “(4) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later
25 than 30 days before entering into an agreement or

1 arrangement with a foreign government under para-
2 graph (2), the Secretary shall notify the Committee
3 on Homeland Security and the Committee on Trans-
4 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the
7 proposed terms of such agreement or arrangement.”.

8 **SEC. 318. FISHING VESSEL AND FISH TENDER VESSEL CER-**
9 **TIFICATION.**

10 (a) ALTERNATIVE SAFETY COMPLIANCE PRO-
11 GRAMS.—Section 4503 of title 46, United States Code, is
12 amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this section”
14 and inserting “this subsection”;

15 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “This section”
16 and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (d),
17 subsection (a)”;

18 (3) in subsection (c)—

19 (A) by striking “This section” and insert-
20 ing “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2),
21 subsection (a)”;

22 (B) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(2) Subsection (a) does not apply to a fishing vessel
24 or fish tender vessel to which section 4502(b) of this title
25 applies, if the vessel—

1 “(A) is at least 50 feet overall in length, and
2 not more than 79 feet overall in length; and

3 “(B)(i) is built after January 1, 2016, and
4 complies with the alternative safety compliance pro-
5 gram established under subsection (e); or

6 “(ii) is built after the date of the enactment of
7 the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 and be-
8 fore the establishment of the alternative safety com-
9 pliance program required under subsection (e), and
10 complies with the requirements described in sub-
11 section (f).”; and

12 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
13 section (g), and inserting after subsection (d) the
14 following:

15 “(e)(1) Not later than 5 years after the date of the
16 enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015,
17 the Secretary shall establish an alternative safety compli-
18 ance program for fishing vessels or fish tender vessels (or
19 both) that are described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i)
20 of subsection (c)(2).

21 “(2) The alternative safety compliance program es-
22 tablished under paragraph (1) shall include requirements
23 for—

24 “(A) vessel construction;

25 “(B) a vessel stability test;

1 “(C) vessel stability and loading instructions;

2 “(D) an assigned vessel loading mark;

3 “(E) a vessel condition survey at least bienni-
4 ally;

5 “(F) an out-of-water vessel survey at least once
6 every 5 years;

7 “(G) maintenance of records to demonstrate
8 compliance with the program, and the availability of
9 such records for inspection; and

10 “(H) such other aspects of vessel safety as the
11 Secretary considers appropriate.

12 “(f) The requirements referred to in subsection
13 (c)(2)(B)(ii) are the following:

14 “(1) The vessel is designed by an individual li-
15 censed by a State as a naval architect or marine en-
16 gineer, and the design incorporates standards equiv-
17 alent to those prescribed by a classification society
18 to which the Secretary has delegated authority
19 under section 3316 or another qualified organization
20 approved by the Secretary for purposes of this para-
21 graph.

22 “(2) Construction of the vessel is overseen and
23 certified as being in accordance with its design by a
24 marine surveyor of an organization accepted by the
25 Secretary.

1 “(3) The vessel—

2 “(A) completes a stability test performed
3 by a qualified individual;

4 “(B) has written stability and loading in-
5 structions from a qualified individual that are
6 provided to the owner or operator; and

7 “(C) has an assigned loading mark.

8 “(4) The vessel is not substantially modified or
9 changed without the review and approval of an indi-
10 vidual licensed by a State as a naval architect or
11 marine engineer before the beginning of such sub-
12 stantial modification or change.

13 “(5) The vessel undergoes a condition survey at
14 least biennially to the satisfaction of a marine sur-
15 veyor of an organization accepted by the Secretary.

16 “(6) The vessel undergoes an out-of-water sur-
17 vey at least once every 5 years to the satisfaction of
18 a certified marine surveyor of an organization ac-
19 cepted by the Secretary.

20 “(7) Once every 5 years and at the time of a
21 modification or substantial change to such vessel,
22 compliance of the vessel with the requirements of
23 paragraph (3) is reviewed and updated as necessary.

24 “(8) For the life of the vessel, the owner of the
25 vessel maintains records to demonstrate compliance

1 with this subsection and makes such records readily
2 available for inspection by an official authorized to
3 enforce this chapter.”.

4 (b) GAO REPORT ON COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL
5 SAFETY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
8 Comptroller General of the United States shall sub-
9 mit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
10 structure of the House of Representatives and the
11 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
12 tation of the Senate a report on commercial fishing
13 vessel safety. The report shall include—

14 (A) national and regional trends that can
15 be identified with respect to rates of marine
16 causalities, human injuries, and deaths aboard
17 or involving fishing vessels greater than 79 feet
18 in length that operate beyond the 3-nautical-
19 mile demarcation line;

20 (B) a comparison of United States regula-
21 tions for classification of fishing vessels to those
22 established by other countries, including the
23 vessel length at which such regulations apply;

24 (C) the additional costs imposed on vessel
25 owners as a result of the requirement in section

1 4503(a) of title 46, United States Code, and
2 how the those costs vary in relation to vessel
3 size and from region to region;

4 (D) savings that result from the applica-
5 tion of the requirement in section 4503(a) of
6 title 46, United States Code, including reduc-
7 tions in insurance rates or reduction in the
8 number of fishing vessels or fish tender vessels
9 lost to major safety casualties, nationally and
10 regionally;

11 (E) a national and regional comparison of
12 the additional costs and safety benefits associ-
13 ated with fishing vessels or fish tender vessels
14 that are built and maintained to class through
15 a classification society to the additional costs
16 and safety benefits associated with fishing ves-
17 sels or fish tender vessels that are built to
18 standards equivalent to classification society
19 construction standards and maintained to
20 standards equivalent to classification society
21 standards with verification by independent sur-
22 veyors; and

23 (F) the impact on the cost of production
24 and availability of qualified shipyards, nation-
25 ally and regionally, resulting from the applica-

1 tion of the requirement in section 4503(a) of
2 title 46, United States Code.

3 (2) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In pre-
4 paring the report under paragraph (1), the Comp-
5 troller General shall—

6 (A) consult with owners and operators of
7 fishing vessels or fish tender vessels, classifica-
8 tion societies, shipyards, the National Institute
9 for Occupational Safety and Health, the Na-
10 tional Transportation Safety Board, the Coast
11 Guard, academics, and marine safety non-
12 governmental organizations; and

13 (B) obtain relevant data from the Coast
14 Guard including data collected from enforce-
15 ment actions, boardings, investigations of ma-
16 rine casualties, and serious marine incidents.

17 (3) TREATMENT OF DATA.—In preparing the
18 report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General
19 shall—

20 (A) disaggregate data regionally for each
21 of the regions managed by the regional fishery
22 management councils established under section
23 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Con-
24 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
25 1852), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries

1 Commission, the Pacific States Marine Fish-
2 eries Commission, and the Gulf States Marine
3 Fisheries Commission; and

4 (B) include qualitative data on the types of
5 fishing vessels or fish tender vessels included in
6 the report.

7 **SEC. 319. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON**
8 **OIL POLLUTION RESEARCH.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7001(a)(3) of the Oil Pol-
10 lution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2761(a)(3)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking “Minerals Management Service”
12 and inserting “Bureau of Safety and Environmental
13 Enforcement, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-
14 ment,”; and

15 (2) by inserting “the United States Arctic Re-
16 search Commission,” after “National Aeronautics
17 and Space Administration,”.

18 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 7001 of the
19 Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2761) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b)(2), in the matter pre-
21 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Department
22 of Transportation” and inserting “department in
23 which the Coast Guard is operating”; and

24 (2) in subsection (c)(8)(A), by striking
25 “(1989)” and inserting “(2010)”.

1 **SEC. 320. INTERNATIONAL PORT AND FACILITY INSPEC-**
2 **TION COORDINATION.**

3 Section 825(a) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act
4 of 2010 (6 U.S.C. 945 note; Public Law 111–281) is
5 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

6 (1) by striking “the department in which the
7 Coast Guard is operating” and inserting “Homeland
8 Security”; and

9 (2) by striking “they are integrated and con-
10 ducted by the Coast Guard” and inserting “the as-
11 sessments are coordinated between the Coast Guard
12 and Customs and Border Protection”.

13 **TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME**
14 **COMMISSION**

15 **SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

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

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

“308. Authorization of appropriations.”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 “(vi) prepare and submit to the Presi-
16 dent and the Congress requests for appro-
17 priations for the Commission (with such
18 requests subject to the approval of the
19 Commission).”.

20 **SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON AWARDS.**

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

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

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

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

4 “(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
5 the Federal Maritime Commission may not expend any
6 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it to
7 a non-Federal entity to issue an award, prize, commenda-
8 tion, or other honor that is not related to the purposes
9 set forth in section 40101.”.

10 **TITLE V—CONVEYANCES**
11 **Subtitle A—Miscellaneous**
12 **Conveyances**

13 **SEC. 501. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN**
14 **POINT REYES STATION, CALIFORNIA.**

15 (a) CONVEYANCE.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the
17 Coast Guard shall convey to the County of Marin,
18 California, all right, title, and interest of the United
19 States in and to the covered property—

20 (A) for fair market value, as provided in
21 paragraph (2);

22 (B) subject to the conditions required by
23 this section; and

24 (C) subject to any other term or condition
25 that the Commandant considers appropriate

1 and reasonable to protect the interests of the
2 United States.

3 (2) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market
4 value of the covered property shall be—

5 (A) determined by a real estate appraiser
6 who has been selected by the County and is li-
7 censed to practice in California; and

8 (B) approved by the Commandant.

9 (3) PROCEEDS.—The Commandant shall de-
10 posit the proceeds from a conveyance under para-
11 graph (1) in the Coast Guard Housing Fund estab-
12 lished by section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

13 (b) CONDITION OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of
14 any conveyance of the covered property under this section,
15 the Commandant shall require that all right, title, and in-
16 terest in and to the covered property shall revert to the
17 United States if the covered property or any part thereof
18 ceases to be used for affordable housing, as defined by
19 the County and the Commandant at the time of convey-
20 ance, or to provide a public benefit approved by the Coun-
21 ty.

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

1 (d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion may be construed to affect or limit the application
3 of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, in-
4 cluding section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environ-
5 mental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of
6 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

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

11 (1) located in Point Reyes Station in the Coun-
12 ty of Marin, California;

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

15 (3) described as “Parcel A, Tract 1”, “Parcel
16 B, Tract 2”, “Parcel C”, and “Parcel D” in the
17 Declaration of Taking (Civil No. C 71–1245 SC)
18 filed June 28, 1971, in the United States District
19 Court for the Northern District of California.

20 (f) EXPIRATION.—The authority to convey the cov-
21 ered property under this section shall expire on the date
22 that is four years after the date of the enactment of this
23 Act.

1 **SEC. 502. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN**
2 **TOK, ALASKA.**

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

9 (b) **SURVEY.**—The exact acreage and legal descrip-
10 tion of the covered property shall be determined by a sur-
11 vey satisfactory to the Commandant.

12 (c) **FAIR MARKET VALUE.**—The fair market value of
13 the covered property shall be—

14 (1) determined by appraisal; and

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

16 (d) **COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—The responsibility for
17 all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate
18 transaction and environmental documentation costs, asso-
19 ciated with a conveyance under this section shall be deter-
20 mined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

21 (e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The
22 Commandant may require such additional terms and con-
23 ditions in connection with a conveyance under this section
24 as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable
25 to protect the interests of the United States.

1 (f) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds received
2 by the United States from a conveyance under this section
3 shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund es-
4 tablished under section 687 of title 14, United States
5 Code.

6 (g) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—

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

11 (A) located in Tok, Alaska;

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

14 (C) described in paragraph (2).

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

17 (A) Lots 11, 12 and 13, block “G”, Sec-
18 ond Addition to Hartsell Subdivision, Section
19 20, Township 18 North, Range 13 East, Cop-
20 per River Meridian, Alaska as appears by Plat
21 No. 72–39 filed in the Office of the Recorder
22 for the Fairbanks Recording District of Alaska,
23 bearing seal dated 25 September 1972, all con-
24 taining approximately 1.25 acres and commonly

1 known as 2-PLEX – Jackie Circle, Units A
2 and B.

3 (B) Beginning at a point being the SE cor-
4 ner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 24,
5 Township 18 North, Range 12 East, Copper
6 River Meridian, Alaska; thence running west-
7 erly along the south line of said SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the
8 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 260 feet; thence northerly parallel to the
9 east line of said SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 335 feet;
10 thence easterly parallel to the south line 260
11 feet; then south 335 feet along the east bound-
12 ary of Section 24 to the point of beginning; all
13 containing approximately 2.0 acres and com-
14 monly known as 4-PLEX – West “C” and Wil-
15 low, Units A, B, C and D.

16 (h) EXPIRATION.—The authority to convey the cov-
17 ered property under this section shall expire on the date
18 that is 4 years after the date of the enactment of this
19 Act.

20 **Subtitle B—Pribilof Islands**

21 **SEC. 521. SHORT TITLE.**

22 This subtitle may be cited as the “Pribilof Island
23 Transition Completion Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 522. TRANSFER AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.**

2 (a) TRANSFER.—To further accomplish the settle-
3 ment of land claims under the Alaska Native Claims Set-
4 tlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Secretary of
5 Commerce shall, subject to paragraph (2), and notwith-
6 standing section 105(a) of the Pribilof Islands Transition
7 Act (16 U.S.C. 1161 note; Public Law 106–562), convey
8 all right, title, and interest in the following property to
9 the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island:

10 (1) Lots 4, 5, and 6A, Block 18, Tract A, U.S.
11 Survey 4943, Alaska, the plat of which was Offi-
12 cially Filed on January 20, 2004, aggregating
13 13,006 square feet (0.30 acres).

14 (2) On the termination of the license described
15 in subsection (b)(3), T. 35 S., R. 131 W., Seward
16 Meridian, Alaska, Tract 43, the plat of which was
17 Officially Filed on May 14, 1986, containing 84.88
18 acres.

19 (b) FEDERAL USE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the depart-
21 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating may op-
22 erate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, repair, and re-
23 place any Federal aid to navigation located on the
24 property described in subsection (a) as long as the
25 aid is needed for navigational purposes.

1 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out sub-
2 section (a), the Secretary may enter the property, at
3 any time for as long as the aid is needed for naviga-
4 tional purposes, without notice to the extent that it
5 is not practicable to provide advance notice.

6 (3) LICENSE.—The Secretary of the Depart-
7 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating may
8 maintain a license in effect on the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act with respect to the real property
10 and improvements under subsection (a) until the ter-
11 mination of the license.

12 (4) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act and not less than
14 once every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the
15 department in which the Coast Guard is operating
16 shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources
17 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
18 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
19 Senate a report on—

20 (A) efforts taken to remediate contami-
21 nated soils on tract 43 described in subsection
22 (a)(2);

23 (B) a schedule for the completion of con-
24 taminated soil remediation on tract 43; and

1 (C) any use of tract 43 to carry out Coast
2 Guard navigation activities.

3 (c) AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER OF OTHER PROP-
4 erty ON ST. PAUL ISLAND.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the property
6 transferred under subsection (a), not later than 60
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
8 Secretary of Commerce and the presiding officer of
9 the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Is-
10 land shall enter into an agreement to exchange of
11 property on Tracts 50 and 38 on St. Paul Island
12 and to finalize the recording of deeds, to reflect the
13 boundaries and ownership of Tracts 50 and 38 as
14 depicted on a survey of the National Oceanic and
15 Atmospheric Administration, to be filed with the Of-
16 fice of the Recorder for the Department of Natural
17 Resources for the State of Alaska.

18 (2) EASEMENTS.—The survey described in sub-
19 section (a) shall include respective easements grant-
20 ed to the Secretary and the Alaska native village
21 corporation for the purpose of utilities, drainage,
22 road access, and salt lagoon conservation.

23 **SEC. 523. NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION.**

24 Section 105 of the Pribilof Islands Transition Act (16
25 U.S.C. 1161 note; Public Law 106–562) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “The Sec-
2 retary” and inserting “Notwithstanding paragraph
3 (2) and effective beginning on the date the Secretary
4 publishes the notice of certification required by sub-
5 section (b)(5), the Secretary”;

6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “sec-
8 tion 205 of the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16
9 U.S.C. 1165)” and inserting “section 205(a) of
10 the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.
11 1165(a))”; and

12 (B) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(5) NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION.—The Sec-
14 retary shall promptly publish and submit to the
15 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of
16 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
17 Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice
18 that the certification described in paragraph (2) has
19 been made.”;

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
22 by striking “makes the certification described in
23 subsection (b)(2)” and inserting “publishes the
24 notice of certification required by subsection
25 (b)(5)”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “Section
2 205” and inserting “Subsections (a), (b), (c),
3 and (d) of section 205”;

4 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
5 section (g); and

6 (5) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(e) NOTIFICATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days
10 after the Secretary makes a determination under
11 subsection (f) that land on St. Paul Island, Alaska,
12 not specified for transfer in the document entitled
13 ‘Transfer of Property on the Pribilof Islands: De-
14 scriptions, Terms and Conditions’ or section 522 of
15 the Pribilof Island Transition Completion Act of
16 2015 is in excess of the needs of the Secretary and
17 the Federal Government, the Secretary shall notify
18 the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Is-
19 land of the determination.

20 “(2) ELECTION TO RECEIVE.—Not later than
21 60 days after the date receipt of the notification of
22 the Secretary under subsection (a), the Alaska na-
23 tive village corporation for St. Paul Island shall no-
24 tify the Secretary in writing whether the Alaska na-
25 tive village corporation elects to receive all right,

1 title, and interest in the land or a portion of the
2 land.

3 “(3) TRANSFER.—If the Alaska native village
4 corporation provides notice under paragraph (2) that
5 the Alaska native village corporation elects to receive
6 all right, title and interest in the land or a portion
7 of the land, the Secretary shall transfer all right,
8 title, and interest in the land or portion to the Alas-
9 ka native village corporation at no cost.

10 “(4) OTHER DISPOSITION.—If the Alaska na-
11 tive village corporation does not provide notice under
12 paragraph (2) that the Alaska native village corpora-
13 tion elects to receive all right, title, and interest in
14 the land or a portion of the land, the Secretary may
15 dispose of the land in accordance with other applica-
16 ble law.

17 “(f) DETERMINATION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
19 after the date of the enactment of this subsection
20 and not less than once every 5 years thereafter, the
21 Secretary shall determine whether property located
22 on St. Paul Island and not transferred to the Na-
23 tives of the Pribilof Islands is in excess of the small-
24 est practicable tract enclosing land—

1 “(A) needed by the Secretary for the pur-
2 poses of carrying out the Fur Seal Act of 1966
3 (16 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.);

4 “(B) in the case of land withdrawn by the
5 Secretary on behalf of other Federal agencies,
6 needed for carrying out the missions of those
7 agencies for which land was withdrawn; or

8 “(C) actually used by the Federal Govern-
9 ment in connection with the administration of
10 any Federal installation on St. Paul Island.

11 “(2) REPORT OF DETERMINATION.—When a
12 determination is made under subsection (a), the Sec-
13 retary shall report the determination to—

14 “(A) the Committee on Natural Resources
15 of the House of Representatives;

16 “(B) the Committee on Commerce,
17 Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

18 “(C) the Alaska native village corporation
19 for St. Paul Island.”.

20 **SEC. 524. REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.**

21 (a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as provided
22 in subsection (b), section 681 of title 14, United States
23 Code, as amended by this Act, shall not be construed to
24 prohibit any transfer or conveyance of lands under this
25 subtitle or any actions that involve the dismantling or dis-

1 posal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN
2 system that are associated with the transfer or conveyance
3 of lands under section 522.

4 (b) REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.—If, within the 5-year
5 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
6 the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard
7 is operating determines that a facility on Tract 43, if
8 transferred under this subtitle, is subsequently required
9 to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to
10 provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are
11 disrupted, the Secretary may—

12 (1) operate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, re-
13 pair, and replace such facility; and

14 (2) in carrying out the activities described in
15 paragraph (1), enter, at any time, the facility with-
16 out notice to the extent that it is not possible to pro-
17 vide advance notice, for as long as such facility is
18 needed to provide such capability.

19 **Subtitle C—Conveyance of Coast**
20 **Guard Property at Point Spen-**
21 **cer, Alaska**

22 **SEC. 531. FINDINGS.**

23 The Congress finds as follows:

24 (1) Major shipping traffic is increasing through
25 the Bering Strait, the Bering and Chukchi Seas, and

1 the Arctic Ocean, and will continue to increase
2 whether or not development of the Outer Continental
3 Shelf of the United States is undertaken in the fu-
4 ture, and will increase further if such Outer Conti-
5 nental Shelf development is undertaken.

6 (2) There is a compelling national, State, Alas-
7 ka Native, and private sector need for permanent in-
8 frastructure development and for a presence in the
9 Arctic region of Alaska by appropriate agencies of
10 the Federal Government, particularly in proximity to
11 the Bering Strait, to support and facilitate search
12 and rescue, shipping safety, economic development,
13 oil spill prevention and response, protection of Alas-
14 ka Native archaeological and cultural resources, port
15 of refuge, arctic research, and maritime law enforce-
16 ment on the Bering Sea, the Chukchi Sea, and the
17 Arctic Ocean.

18 (3) The United States owns a parcel of land,
19 known as Point Spencer, located between the Bering
20 Strait and Port Clarence and adjacent to some of
21 the best potential deepwater port sites on the coast
22 of Alaska in the Arctic.

23 (4) Prudent and effective use of Point Spencer
24 may be best achieved through marshaling the en-

1 energy, resources, and leadership of the public and pri-
2 vate sectors.

3 (5) It is in the national interest to develop in-
4 frastructure at Point Spencer that would aid the
5 Coast Guard in performing its statutory duties and
6 functions in the Arctic on a more permanent basis
7 and to allow for public and private sector develop-
8 ment of facilities and other infrastructure to support
9 purposes that are of benefit to the United States.

10 **SEC. 532. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this subtitle:

12 (1) ARCTIC.—The term “Arctic” has the mean-
13 ing given that term in section 112 of the Arctic Re-
14 search and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

15 (2) BSNC.—The term “BSNC” means the
16 Bering Straits Native Corporation authorized under
17 section 7 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
18 Act (43 U.S.C. 1606).

19 (3) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the
20 Port Coordination Council established under section
21 541.

22 (4) PLAN.—The term “Plan” means the Port
23 Management Coordination Plan developed under sec-
24 tion 541.

1 (5) POINT SPENCER.—The term “Point Spen-
2 cer” means the land known as “Point Spencer” lo-
3 cated in Townships 2, 3, and 4 South, Range 40
4 West, Kateel River Meridian, Alaska, between the
5 Bering Strait and Port Clarence and withdrawn by
6 Public Land Order 2650 (published in the Federal
7 Register on April 12, 1962).

8 (6) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifi-
9 cally provided, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
10 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard
11 is operating.

12 (7) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
13 of Alaska.

14 (8) TRACT.—The term “Tract” or “Tracts”
15 means any of Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, Tract 4,
16 Tract 5, or Tract 6, as appropriate, or any portion
17 of such Tract or Tracts.

18 (9) TRACTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, AND 6.—The terms
19 “Tract 1”, “Tract 2”, “Tract 3”, “Tract 4”, “Tract
20 5”, and “Tract 6” each mean the land generally de-
21 picted as Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, Tract 4, Tract
22 5, or Tract 6, respectively, on the map entitled the
23 “Point Spencer Land Retention and Conveyance
24 Map”, dated January 2015, and on file with the De-

1 face and subsurface estates of Tract 6 in accordance with
2 subsection (e).

3 (d) ORDER OF OFFER TO CONVEY TRACT 1, 2, 3,
4 4, OR 5.—

5 (1) DETERMINATION AND OFFER.—

6 (A) TRACT 1, 3, OR 4.—If the Secretary
7 makes the determination under subsection (a)
8 and subject to section 534, the Secretary of the
9 Interior shall offer Tract 1, Tract 3, or Tract
10 4 for conveyance to BSNC under the Alaska
11 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601
12 et seq.).

13 (B) TRACT 2 AND 5.—Subject to section
14 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer
15 Tract 2 and Tract 5 to BSNC under the Alaska
16 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601
17 et seq.).

18 (2) OFFER TO BSNC.—

19 (A) ACCEPTANCE BY BSNC.—If BSNC
20 chooses to accept an offer of conveyance of a
21 Tract under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the
22 Interior shall consider Tract 6 as within
23 BSNC's entitlement under section 14(h)(8) of
24 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43

1 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)) and shall convey such Tract
2 to BSNC.

3 (B) DECLINE BY BSNC.—If BSNC declines
4 to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract
5 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Inte-
6 rior shall offer such Tract for conveyance to the
7 State under the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly
8 known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48
9 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85–508).

10 (3) OFFER TO STATE.—

11 (A) ACCEPTANCE BY STATE.—If the State
12 chooses to accept an offer of conveyance of a
13 Tract under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary of
14 the Interior shall consider such Tract as within
15 the State’s entitlement under the Act of July 7,
16 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska State-
17 hood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public
18 Law 85–508) and shall convey such Tract to
19 the State.

20 (B) DECLINE BY STATE.—If the State de-
21 clines to accept an offer of conveyance of a
22 Tract offered under paragraph (2)(B), such
23 Tract shall be disposed of pursuant to applica-
24 ble public land laws.

25 (e) ORDER OF OFFER TO CONVEY TRACT 6.—

1 (1) OFFER.—Subject to section 534, the Sec-
2 retary of the Interior shall offer Tract 6 for convey-
3 ance to the State.

4 (2) OFFER TO STATE.—

5 (A) ACCEPTANCE BY STATE.—If the State
6 chooses to accept an offer of conveyance of
7 Tract 6 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of
8 the Interior shall consider Tract 6 as within the
9 State’s entitlement under the Act of July 7,
10 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska State-
11 hood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public
12 Law 85–508) and shall convey Tract 6 to the
13 State.

14 (B) DECLINE BY STATE.—If the State de-
15 clines to accept an offer of conveyance of Tract
16 6 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the In-
17 terior shall offer Tract 6 for conveyance to
18 BSNC under the Alaska Native Claims Settle-
19 ment Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

20 (3) OFFER TO BSNC.—

21 (A) ACCEPTANCE BY BSNC.—

22 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
23 (ii), if BSNC chooses to accept an offer of
24 conveyance of Tract 6 under paragraph
25 (2)(B), the Secretary of the Interior shall

1 consider Tract 6 as within BSNC's entitle-
2 ment under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska
3 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
4 1613(h)(8)) and shall convey Tract 6 to
5 BSNC.

6 (ii) LEASE BY THE STATE.—The con-
7 veyance of Tract 6 to BSNC shall be sub-
8 ject to BSNC negotiating a lease of Tract
9 6 to the State at no cost to the State, if
10 the State requests such a lease.

11 (B) DECLINE BY BSNC.—If BSNC declines
12 to accept an offer of conveyance of Tract 6
13 under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary of the
14 Interior shall dispose of Tract 6 pursuant to
15 the applicable public land laws.

16 **SEC. 534. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE, LIABILITY, AND**
17 **MONITORING.**

18 (a) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—Nothing in this
19 Act or any amendment made by this Act may be construed
20 to affect or limit the application of or obligation to comply
21 with any applicable environmental law, including section
22 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response,
23 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C.
24 9620(h)).

1 (b) LIABILITY.—A person to which a conveyance is
2 made under this subtitle shall hold the United States
3 harmless from any liability with respect to activities car-
4 ried out on or after the date of the conveyance of the real
5 property conveyed. The United States shall remain re-
6 sponsible for any liability with respect to activities carried
7 out before such date on the real property conveyed.

8 (c) MONITORING OF KNOWN CONTAMINATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable
10 and subject to paragraph (2), any contamination in
11 a Tract to be conveyed to the State or BSNC under
12 this subtitle that—

13 (A) is identified in writing prior to the con-
14 veyance; and

15 (B) does not pose an immediate or long-
16 term risk to human health or the environment,
17 may be routinely monitored and managed by the
18 State or BSNC, as applicable, through institutional
19 controls.

20 (2) INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS.—Institutional
21 controls may be used if—

22 (A) the Administrator of the Environ-
23 mental Protection Agency and the Governor of
24 the State concur that such controls are protec-
25 tive of human health and the environment; and

1 (B) such controls are carried out in ac-
2 cordance with Federal and State law.

3 **SEC. 535. EASEMENTS AND ACCESS.**

4 (a) USE BY COAST GUARD.—The Secretary of the In-
5 terior shall make each conveyance of any relevant Tract
6 under this subtitle subject to an easement granting the
7 Coast Guard, at no cost to the Coast Guard—

8 (1) use of all existing and future landing pads,
9 airstrips, runways, and taxiways that are located on
10 such Tract; and

11 (2) the right to access such landing pads, air-
12 strips, runways, and taxiways.

13 (b) USE BY STATE.—For any Tract conveyed to
14 BSNC under this subtitle, BSNC shall provide to the
15 State, if requested and pursuant to negotiated terms with
16 the State, an easement granting to the State, at no cost
17 to the State—

18 (1) use of all existing and future landing pads,
19 airstrips, runways, and taxiways located on such
20 Tract; and

21 (2) a right to access such landing pads, air-
22 strips, runways, and taxiways.

23 (c) RIGHT OF ACCESS OR RIGHT OF WAY.—If the
24 State requests a right of access or right of way for a road
25 from the airstrip to the southern tip of Point Spencer,

1 the location of such right of access or right of way shall
2 be determined by the State, in consultation with the Sec-
3 retary and BSNC, so that such right of access or right
4 of way is compatible with other existing or planned infra-
5 structure development at Point Spencer.

6 (d) ACCESS EASEMENT ACROSS TRACTS 2, 5, AND
7 6.—In conveyance documents to the State and BSNC
8 under this subtitle, the Coast Guard shall retain an access
9 easement across Tracts 2, 5, and 6 reasonably necessary
10 to afford the Coast Guard with access to Tracts 1, 3, and
11 4 for its operations.

12 (e) ACCESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Coast Guard shall pro-
14 vide to the State and BSNC, access to Tracts for plan-
15 ning, design, and engineering related to remediation and
16 use of and construction on those Tracts.

17 (f) PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENTS.—No public access
18 easements may be reserved to the United States under
19 section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
20 (43 U.S.C. 1616(b)) with respect to the land conveyed
21 under this subtitle.

22 **SEC. 536. RELATIONSHIP TO PUBLIC LAND ORDER 2650.**

23 (a) TRACTS NOT CONVEYED.—Any Tract that is not
24 conveyed under this subtitle shall remain withdrawn pur-

1 suant to Public Land Order 2650 (published in the Fed-
2 eral Register on April 12, 1962).

3 (b) TRACTS CONVEYED.—For any Tract conveyed
4 under this subtitle, Public Land Order 2650 shall auto-
5 matically terminate upon issuance of a conveyance docu-
6 ment issued pursuant to this subtitle for such Tract.

7 **SEC. 537. ARCHEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.**

8 Conveyance of any Tract under this subtitle shall not
9 affect investigations, criminal jurisdiction, and responsibil-
10 ities regarding theft or vandalism of archeological or cul-
11 tural resources located in or on such Tract that took place
12 prior to conveyance under this subtitle.

13 **SEC. 538. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**

14 (a) PREPARATION OF MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPT-
15 TIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior in consulta-
17 tion with the Secretary shall prepare maps and legal de-
18 scriptions of Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, Tract 4, Tract
19 5, and Tract 6. In doing so, the Secretary of the Interior
20 may use metes and bounds legal descriptions based upon
21 the official survey plats of Point Spencer accepted by the
22 Bureau of Land Management on December 6, 1978, and
23 on information provided by the Secretary.

24 (b) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date
25 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior

1 shall survey Tracts conveyed under this subtitle and pat-
2 ent the Tracts in accordance with the official plats of sur-
3 vey.

4 (c) LEGAL EFFECT.—The maps and legal descrip-
5 tions prepared under subsection (a) and the surveys pre-
6 pared under subsection (b) shall have the same force and
7 effect as if the maps and legal descriptions were included
8 in this Act.

9 (d) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior
10 may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the
11 maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a)
12 and the surveys prepared under subsection (b).

13 (e) AVAILABILITY.—Copies of the maps and legal de-
14 scriptions prepared under subsection (a) and the surveys
15 prepared under subsection (b) shall be available for public
16 inspection in the appropriate offices of—

17 (1) the Bureau of Land Management; and

18 (2) the Coast Guard.

19 **SEC. 539. CHARGEABILITY FOR LAND CONVEYED.**

20 (a) CONVEYANCES TO ALASKA.—The Secretary of
21 the Interior shall charge any conveyance of land conveyed
22 to the State of Alaska pursuant to this subtitle against
23 the State’s remaining entitlement under section 6(b) of
24 the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska
25 Statehood Act”; Public Law 85–508; 72 Stat. 339).

1 (b) CONVEYANCES TO BSNC.—The Secretary of the
2 Interior shall charge any conveyance of land conveyed to
3 BSNC pursuant to this subtitle, against BSNC’s remain-
4 ing entitlement under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Na-
5 tive Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)).

6 **SEC. 540. REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
8 (b), section 681 of title 14, United States Code, as amend-
9 ed by this Act, shall not be construed to prohibit any
10 transfer or conveyance of lands under this subtitle or any
11 actions that involve the dismantling or disposal of infra-
12 structure that supported the former LORAN system that
13 are associated with the transfer or conveyance of lands
14 under this subtitle.

15 (b) CONTINUED ACCESS TO AND USE OF FACILI-
16 TIES.—If the Secretary of the department in which the
17 Coast Guard is operating determines, within the 5-year
18 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
19 that a facility on any of Tract 1, Tract 3, or Tract 4 that
20 is transferred under this subtitle is subsequently required
21 to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to
22 provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are
23 disrupted, the Secretary may, for as long as such facility
24 is needed to provide redundant capability—

1 (D) public interest use and access, emer-
2 gency preparedness, law enforcement, protection
3 of Alaska Native archaeological and cultural re-
4 sources, and other matters that are necessary
5 for public and private entities to function in
6 proximity together in a remote location.

7 (2) Update the Plan annually for the first 5
8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and
9 biennially thereafter.

10 (3) Facilitate coordination among BSNC, the
11 State, and the Coast Guard, on the development and
12 use of the land and coastline as such development
13 relates to activities at the Port of Point Spencer.

14 (4) Assess the need, benefits, efficacy, and de-
15 sirability of establishing in the future a port author-
16 ity at Point Spencer under State law and act upon
17 that assessment, as appropriate, including taking
18 steps for the potential formation of such a port au-
19 thority.

20 (d) PLAN.—In addition to the requirements under
21 subsection (c)(1) to the greatest extent practicable, the
22 Plan developed by the Council shall facilitate and support
23 the statutory missions and duties of the Coast Guard and
24 operations of the Coast Guard in the Arctic.

1 (e) COSTS.—Operations and management costs for
2 airstrips, runways, and taxiways at Point Spencer shall
3 be determined pursuant to provisions of the Plan, as nego-
4 tiated by the Council.

5 **TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS**

6 **SEC. 601. MODIFICATION OF REPORTS.**

7 (a) DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.—Section 421(d)
8 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of
9 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended by striking “On
10 March 1, 2007, and annually thereafter” and inserting
11 “Not later than July 1 of each year”.

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

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the
25 Coast Guard shall submit to the Secretary of the depart-

1 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating a report de-
2 tailing the specifications and capabilities for interoperable
3 communications the Commandant determines are nec-
4 essary to allow the Coast Guard to successfully carry out
5 its missions that require communications with other Fed-
6 eral agencies, State and local governments, and non-
7 governmental entities.

8 **SEC. 602. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES.**

9 The Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Trans-
10 portation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in section 610, by—

13 (A) striking the section enumerator and
14 heading and inserting the following:

15 **“SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT**
16 **LAKES.”;**

17 (B) striking “existing boundaries and any
18 future expanded boundaries of the Thunder
19 Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Under-
20 water Preserve” and inserting “boundaries of
21 any national marine sanctuary that preserves
22 shipwrecks or maritime heritage in the Great
23 Lakes”; and

24 (C) inserting before the period at the end
25 the following: “, unless the designation docu-

1 ments for such sanctuary do not allow taking
2 up or discharging ballast water in such sanc-
3 tuary”; and

4 (2) in the table of contents in section 2, by
5 striking the item relating to such section and insert-
6 ing the following:

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

7 **SEC. 603. USE OF VESSEL SALE PROCEEDS.**

8 (a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United
9 States shall conduct an audit of funds credited in each
10 fiscal year after fiscal year 2004 to the Vessel Operations
11 Revolving Fund that are attributable to the sale of obso-
12 lete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that
13 were scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and
14 57104 of title 46, United States Code, including—

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

21 (2) the annual apportionment of proceeds ac-
22 counted for under paragraph (1) among the uses au-
23 thorized under section 308704 of title 54, United
24 States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year
25 2004, including—

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

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

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

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

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

24 (b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180
25 days after the date of the enactment this Act, the Comp-

1 troller General shall submit the audit conducted in sub-
2 section (a) to the Committee on Armed Services, the Com-
3 mittee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on
4 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
6 and Transportation of the Senate.

7 **SEC. 604. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COST ASSESS-**
8 **MENT.**

9 (a) COST ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of the de-
10 partment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall seek
11 to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy
12 of Sciences under which the Academy, by no later than
13 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall
14 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
15 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
16 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
17 Senate an assessment of the costs incurred by the Federal
18 Government to carry out polar icebreaking missions. The
19 assessment shall—

20 (1) describe current and emerging requirements
21 for the Coast Guard’s polar icebreaking capabilities,
22 taking into account the rapidly changing ice cover in
23 the Arctic environment, national security consider-
24 ations, and expanding commercial activities in the

1 Arctic and Antarctic, including marine transpor-
2 tation, energy development, fishing, and tourism;

3 (2) identify potential design, procurement, leas-
4 ing, service contracts, crewing, and technology op-
5 tions that could minimize life-cycle costs and opti-
6 mize efficiency and reliability of Coast Guard polar
7 icebreaker operations in the Arctic and Antarctic;
8 and

9 (3) examine—

10 (A) Coast Guard estimates of the procure-
11 ment and operating costs of a Polar icebreaker
12 capable of carrying out Coast Guard maritime
13 safety, national security, and stewardship re-
14 sponsibilities including—

15 (i) economies of scale that might be
16 achieved for construction of multiple ves-
17 sels; and

18 (ii) costs of renovating existing polar
19 class icebreakers to operate for a period of
20 no less than 10 years.

21 (B) the incremental cost to augment the
22 design of such an icebreaker for multiuse capa-
23 bilities for scientific missions;

1 (C) the potential to offset such incremental
2 cost through cost-sharing agreements with
3 other Federal departments and agencies; and

4 (D) United States polar icebreaking capa-
5 bility in comparison with that of other Arctic
6 nations, and with nations that conduct research
7 in the Arctic.

8 (b) INCLUDED COSTS.—For purposes of subsection
9 (a), the assessment shall include costs incurred by the
10 Federal Government for—

11 (1) the lease or operation and maintenance of
12 the vessel or vessels concerned;

13 (2) disposal of such vessels at the end of the
14 useful life of the vessels;

15 (3) retirement and other benefits for Federal
16 employees who operate such vessels; and

17 (4) interest payments assumed to be incurred
18 for Federal capital expenditures.

19 (c) ASSUMPTIONS.—For purposes of comparing the
20 costs of such alternatives, the Academy shall assume
21 that—

22 (1) each vessel under consideration is—

23 (A) capable of breaking out McMurdo Sta-
24 tion and conducting Coast Guard missions in
25 the Antarctic, and in the United States terri-

1 tory in the Arctic (as that term is defined in
2 section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy
3 Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)); and

4 (B) operated for a period of 30 years;

5 (2) the acquisition of services and the operation
6 of each vessel begins on the same date; and

7 (3) the periods for conducting Coast Guard
8 missions in the Arctic are of equal lengths.

9 (d) USE OF INFORMATION.—In formulating cost pur-
10 suant to subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences
11 may utilize information from other Coast Guard reports,
12 assessments, or analyses regarding existing Coast Guard
13 Polar class icebreakers or for the acquisition of a polar
14 icebreaker for the Federal Government.

15 **SEC. 605. PENALTY WAGES.**

16 (a) FOREIGN AND INTERCOASTAL VOYAGES.—Sec-
17 tion 10313(g) of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
18 ed—

19 (1) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by striking “all claims in a class action
21 suit by seamen” and inserting “each claim by
22 a seaman”; and

23 (B) by striking “the seamen” and inserting
24 “the seaman”; and

25 (2) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) by striking “class action”; and

2 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, by
3 a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,” and
4 inserting “by the seaman”.

5 (b) COASTWISE VOYAGES.—Section 10504(c) of such
6 title is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) by striking “all claims in a class action
9 suit by seamen” and inserting “each claim by
10 a seaman”; and

11 (B) by striking “the seamen” and inserting
12 “the seaman”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (3)—

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

15 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, by
16 a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,” and
17 inserting “by the seaman”.

18 **SEC. 606. RECOURSE FOR NONCITIZENS.**

19 Section 30104 of title 46, United States Code, is
20 amended—

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

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

24 “(b) RESTRICTION ON RECOVERY FOR NON-
25 RESIDENT ALIENS EMPLOYED ON FOREIGN PASSENGER

1 VESSELS.—A claim for damages or expenses relating to
2 personal injury, illness, or death of a seaman who is a
3 citizen of a foreign nation, arising during or from the en-
4 gagement of the seaman by or for a passenger vessel duly
5 registered under the laws of a foreign nation, may not be
6 brought under the laws of the United States if—

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

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

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

16 “(A) the nation in which the vessel was
17 registered at the time the claim arose; or

18 “(B) the nation in which the seaman main-
19 tained citizenship or residency at the time the
20 claim arose.

21 “(c) COMPENSATION DEFINED.—As used in sub-
22 section (b), the term ‘compensation’ means—

23 “(1) a statutory workers’ compensation remedy
24 that complies with Standard A4.2 of Regulation 4.2
25 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006; or

1 “(2) in the absence of the remedy described in
2 paragraph (1), a legal remedy that complies with
3 Standard A4.2 of Regulation 4.2 of the Maritime
4 Labour Convention, 2006, that permits recovery for
5 lost wages, pain and suffering, and future medical
6 expenses.”.

7 **SEC. 607. COASTWISE ENDORSEMENTS.**

8 (a) “ELETTRA III”.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections
10 12112 and 12132, of title 46, United States Code,
11 and subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary
12 of the department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
13 ating may issue a certificate of documentation with
14 a coastwise endorsement for the vessel M/V Elettra
15 III (United States official number 694607).

16 (2) LIMITATION ON OPERATION.—Coastwise
17 trade authorized under a certificate of documenta-
18 tion issued under paragraph (1) shall be limited to
19 the carriage of passengers and equipment in associa-
20 tion with the operation of the vessel in the Puget
21 Sound region to support marine and maritime
22 science education.

23 (3) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CER-
24 TIFICATE.—A certificate of documentation issued
25 under paragraph (1) shall expire on the earlier of—

1 (A) the date of the sale of the vessel or the
2 entity that owns the vessel;

3 (B) the date any repairs or alterations are
4 made to the vessel outside of the United States;
5 or

6 (C) the date the vessel is no longer oper-
7 ated as a vessel in the Puget Sound region to
8 support the marine and maritime science edu-
9 cation.

10 (b) “F/V RONDYS”.—Notwithstanding section 12132
11 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the de-
12 partment in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue
13 a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorse-
14 ment for the F/V Rondys (O.N. 291085)

15 **SEC. 608. INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL.**

16 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than
17 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Com-
19 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
20 Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
21 structure of the House of Representatives a report that
22 describes the current operations to perform the Inter-
23 national Ice Patrol mission and on alternatives for car-
24 rying out that mission, including satellite surveillance
25 technology.

1 (b) ALTERNATIVES.—The report required by sub-
2 section (a) shall include whether an alternative—

3 (1) provides timely data on ice conditions with
4 the highest possible resolution and accuracy;

5 (2) is able to operate in all weather conditions
6 or any time of day; and

7 (3) is more cost effective than the cost of cur-
8 rent operations.

9 **SEC. 609. ASSESSMENT OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND**
10 **CLEANUP ACTIVITIES IN THE GREAT LAKES.**

11 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Commandant of the Coast
12 Guard, in consultation with the Administrator of the Na-
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the
14 head of any other agency the Commandant determines ap-
15 propriate, shall conduct an assessment of the effectiveness
16 of oil spill response activities specific to the Great Lakes.
17 Such assessment shall include—

18 (1) an evaluation of new research into oil spill
19 impacts in fresh water under a wide range of condi-
20 tions; and

21 (2) an evaluation of oil spill prevention and
22 clean up contingency plans, in order to improve un-
23 derstanding of oil spill impacts in the Great Lakes
24 and foster innovative improvements to safety tech-
25 nologies and environmental protection systems.

1 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-
3 mandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Congress
4 a report on the results of the assessment required by sub-
5 section (a).

6 **SEC. 610. REPORT ON STATUS OF TECHNOLOGY DETECT-**
7 **ING PASSENGERS WHO HAVE FALLEN OVER-**
8 **BOARD.**

9 Not later than 18 months after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard
11 shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce,
12 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
13 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
14 of Representatives that—

15 (1) describes the status of technology for imme-
16 diately detecting passengers who have fallen over-
17 board;

18 (2) includes a recommendation to cruise lines
19 on the feasibility of implementing technology that
20 immediately detects passengers who have fallen over-
21 board, factoring in cost and the risk of false
22 positives;

23 (3) includes data collected from cruise lines on
24 the status of the integration of the technology de-
25 scribed in paragraph (2) on cruise ships, including—

1 (A) the number of cruise ships that have
2 the technology to capture images of passengers
3 who have fallen overboard; and

4 (B) the number of cruise lines that have
5 tested technology that can detect passengers
6 who have fallen overboard; and

7 (4) includes information on any other available
8 technologies that cruise ships could integrate to as-
9 sist in facilitating the search and rescue of a pas-
10 senger who has fallen overboard.

11 **SEC. 611. VENUE.**

12 Section 311(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
13 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861(d))
14 is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting
15 “In the case of Hawaii or any possession of the United
16 States in the Pacific Ocean, the appropriate court is the
17 United States District Court for the District of Hawaii,
18 except that in the case of Guam and Wake Island, the
19 appropriate court is the United States District Court for
20 the District of Guam, and in the case of the Northern
21 Mariana Islands, the appropriate court is the United
22 States District Court for the District of the Northern
23 Mariana Islands.”.

1 **SEC. 612. DISPOSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED TO**
2 **E-LORAN.**

3 (a) DISPOSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14,
5 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
6 end the following:

7 **“§ 681. Disposition of infrastructure related to E-**
8 **LORAN**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not carry out
10 activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infra-
11 structure comprising the LORAN–C system until the date
12 on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on
13 Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on
14 Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the
15 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
16 and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate notice
17 of a determination by the Secretary that such infrastruc-
18 ture is not required to provide a positioning, navigation,
19 and timing system to provide redundant capability in the
20 event the Global Positioning System signals are disrupted.

21 “(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to
22 activities necessary for the safety of human life.

23 “(c) DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On any date after the noti-
25 fication is made under subsection (a), the Adminis-
26 trator of General Services, acting on behalf of the

1 Secretary, may, notwithstanding any other provision
2 of law, sell any real and personal property under the
3 administrative control of the Coast Guard and used
4 for the LORAN-C system, subject to such terms
5 and conditions that the Secretary believes to be nec-
6 essary to protect government interests and program
7 requirements of the Coast Guard.

8 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF PROCEEDS.—

9 “(A) AVAILABILITY OF PROCEEDS.—The
10 proceeds of such sales, less the costs of sale in-
11 curred by the General Services Administration,
12 shall be deposited as offsetting collections into
13 the Coast Guard ‘Environmental Compliance
14 and Restoration’ account and, without further
15 appropriation, shall be available until expended
16 for—

17 “(i) environmental compliance and
18 restoration purposes associated with the
19 LORAN-C system;

20 “(ii) the costs of securing and main-
21 taining equipment that may be used as a
22 backup to the Global Positioning System
23 or to meet any other Federal navigation
24 requirement;

1 “(iii) the demolition of improvements
2 on such real property; and

3 “(iv) the costs associated with the sale
4 of such real and personal property, includ-
5 ing due diligence requirements, necessary
6 environmental remediation, and reimburse-
7 ment of expenses incurred by the General
8 Services Administration.

9 “(B) OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLI-
10 ANCE AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—After
11 the completion of activities described in sub-
12 paragraph (A), the unexpended balances of
13 such proceeds shall be available for any other
14 environmental compliance and restoration ac-
15 tivities of the Coast Guard.”.

16 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at
17 the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
18 at the end the following:

“681. Disposition of infrastructure related to E-LORAN.”.

19 (3) CONFORMING REPEALS.—

20 (A) Section 229 of the Howard Coble
21 Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act
22 of 2014 (Public Law 113–281; 128 Stat.
23 3040), and the item relating to that section in
24 section 2 of such Act, are repealed.

1 (B) Subsection 559(e) of the Department
2 of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010
3 (Public Law 111–83; 123 Stat. 2180) is re-
4 pealed.

5 (b) AGREEMENTS TO DEVELOP BACKUP POSI-
6 TIONING, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING SYSTEM.—Section
7 93(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by strik-
8 ing “and” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph
9 (23), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (24)
10 and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing the following:

12 “(25) enter into cooperative agreements, con-
13 tracts, and other agreements with Federal entities
14 and other public or private entities, including aca-
15 demic entities, to develop a positioning, navigation,
16 and timing system to provide redundant capability in
17 the event Global Positioning System signals are dis-
18 rupted, which may consist of an enhanced LORAN
19 system.”.

20 **SEC. 613. PARKING.**

21 Section 611(a) of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and
22 Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–
23 281; 128 Stat. 3064) is amended by adding at the end
24 the following:

1 “(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—Through September 30,
2 2017, additional parking made available under paragraph
3 (2) shall be made available at no cost to the Coast Guard
4 or members and employees of the Coast Guard.”.

○