

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4468

To direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study and report to the Congress regarding recreational vessel operator training.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. SUOZZI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study and report to the Congress regarding recreational vessel operator training.

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. RECREATIONAL VESSEL OPERATOR EDU-**
4 **CATION AND TRAINING.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the depart-
7 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall study
8 and report to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
9 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
2 Senate regarding recreational vessel operator training.

3 The study and report shall included a review of—

4 (1) Coast Guard Auxiliary and Power Squadron
5 training programs;

6 (2) existing State boating education programs,
7 including programs by the National Association of
8 State Boating Law Administrators (in this section
9 referred to as “NASBLA”); and

10 (3) other hands-on training programs available
11 to recreational vessel operators.

12 (b) INCLUDED SUBJECTS.—The study shall specifi-
13 cally examine—

14 (1) course materials;

15 (2) course content;

16 (3) training methodology;

17 (4) assessment methodology; and

18 (5) relevancy of course content to risks for rec-
19 reational boaters.

20 (c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report under this
21 section shall include—

22 (1) a section regarding steps the Coast Guard
23 and NASBLA have taken to encourage States to
24 adopt mandatory recreational vessel operator train-
25 ing;

1 (2) an evaluation of the ability of the States to
2 harmonize their education programs and testing pro-
3 cedures;

4 (3) an analysis of the extent States have pro-
5 vided reciprocity among the States for their respec-
6 tive mandatory and voluntary education require-
7 ments and programs;

8 (4) a section examining the level of uniformity
9 of education and training between the States that
10 currently have mandatory education and training
11 programs;

12 (5) a section outlining the minimum standards
13 for education of recreational vessel operators;

14 (6) a section analyzing how a Federal training
15 and testing program can be harmonized with State
16 training and testing programs;

17 (7) analysis of course content and delivery
18 methodology for relevancy to risks for recreational
19 boaters;

20 (8) a description of the current phase-in periods
21 for mandatory boater education in State mandatory
22 education programs and recommendation for the
23 phase-in period for a mandatory boater education
24 program including an evaluation as to whether the
25 phase-in period affects course availability and cost;

1 (9) a description of the extent States allow for
2 experienced boaters to by-pass mandatory education
3 courses and go directly to testing;

4 (10) recommendations for a by-pass option for
5 experienced boaters;

6 (11) a section analyzing how the Coast Guard
7 would administer a Federal boating education, train-
8 ing, and testing program; and

9 (12) the extent to which a Federal boating edu-
10 cation, training, and testing program should be re-
11 quired for all waters of a State, including internal
12 waters.

○