

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

July 25, 2018.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 756) entitled “An Act to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

1 ***TITLE I—MARINE DEBRIS***

2 ***SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.***

3 *This title may be cited as the “Save Our Seas Act of*
4 *2018”.*

5 ***SEC. 102. NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.***

6 *Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952)*
7 *is amended—*

8 (1) *in subsection (b)—*

9 (A) *in paragraph (4), by striking “; and”*
10 *and inserting a semicolon;*

11 (B) *in paragraph (5)(C), by striking the pe-*
12 *riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and*

13 (C) *by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(6) *work to develop outreach and education*
2 *strategies with other Federal agencies to address*
3 *sources of marine debris;*

4 “(7) *except for discharges of marine debris from*
5 *vessels, in consultation with the Department of State*
6 *and other Federal agencies, promote international ac-*
7 *tion, as appropriate, to reduce the incidence of ma-*
8 *rine debris, including providing technical assistance*
9 *to expand waste management systems internationally;*
10 *and*

11 “(8) *in the case of an event determined to be a*
12 *severe marine debris event under subsection (c)—*

13 “(A) *assist in the cleanup and response re-*
14 *quired by the severe marine debris event; or*

15 “(B) *conduct such other activity as the Ad-*
16 *ministrator determines is appropriate in re-*
17 *sponse to the severe marine debris event.”;*

18 (2) *by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection*
19 *(d);*

20 (3) *by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-*
21 *lowing:*

22 “(c) *DETERMINATION OF SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS*
23 *EVENTS.—At the discretion of the Administrator or at the*
24 *request of the Governor of an affected State, the Adminis-*

1 *trator shall determine whether there is a severe marine de-*
2 *bris event.”; and*

3 *(4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—*

4 *(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “sub-*
5 *paragraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs*
6 *(B) and (C)”;*

7 *(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “may*
8 *waive all or part of the matching requirement*
9 *under subparagraph (A)” and inserting “may*
10 *reduce the non-Federal share of project costs*
11 *under subparagraph (A) by up to 50 percent”;*
12 *and*

13 *(C) by adding at the end of paragraph (2)*
14 *the following:*

15 *“(C) SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—*
16 *Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Federal*
17 *share of the cost of an activity carried out under*
18 *a determination made under subsection (c) shall*
19 *be—*

20 *“(i) 100 percent of the cost of the activ-*
21 *ity, for an activity funded wholly by funds*
22 *made available by a person, including the*
23 *government of a foreign country, to the Fed-*
24 *eral Government for the purpose of respond-*
25 *ing to a severe marine debris event; or*

1 “(ii) 75 percent of the cost of the activ-
2 ity, for any activity other than an activity
3 funded as described in clause (i).”.

4 **SEC. 103. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL EN-**
5 **GAGEMENT TO RESPOND TO MARINE DEBRIS.**

6 *It is the sense of Congress that the President should—*

7 (1) *support research and development on systems*
8 *and materials that reduce—*

9 (A) *derelict fishing gear; and*

10 (B) *the amount of solid waste that is gen-*
11 *erated from land-based sources and the amount*
12 *of such waste that enters the marine environ-*
13 *ment;*

14 (2) *work with representatives of foreign countries*
15 *that discharge the largest amounts of solid waste from*
16 *land-based sources into the marine environment, to*
17 *develop mechanisms to reduce such discharges;*

18 (3) *carry out studies to determine—*

19 (A) *the primary means of discharges re-*
20 *ferred to in paragraph (2);*

21 (B) *the manner in which waste manage-*
22 *ment infrastructure can be most effective in pre-*
23 *venting such discharges; and*

24 (C) *the long-term impacts of marine debris*
25 *on the national economies of the countries with*

1 *which work is undertaken under paragraph (2)*
2 *and on the global economy, including the im-*
3 *acts of reducing the discharge of such debris;*

4 (4) *work with representatives of the countries*
5 *with which work is undertaken in paragraph (2) to*
6 *conclude one or more new international agreements*
7 *that include provisions—*

8 (A) *to mitigate the discharge of land-based*
9 *solid waste into the marine environment; and*

10 (B) *to provide technical assistance and in-*
11 *vestment in waste management infrastructure to*
12 *reduce such discharges, if the President deter-*
13 *mines such assistance or investment is appro-*
14 *priate; and*

15 (5) *encourage the United States Trade Rep-*
16 *resentative to consider the impact of discharges of*
17 *land-based solid waste from the countries with which*
18 *work is conducted under paragraph (2) in relevant*
19 *future trade agreements.*

20 **SEC. 104. MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERAGENCY MARINE DE-**
21 **BRIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

22 *Section 5(b) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C.*
23 *1954(b)) is amended—*

24 (1) *in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and*
25 *inserting a semicolon;*

1 (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
2 graph (7); and

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(5) the Department of State;

6 “(6) the Department of the Interior; and”.

7 **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 Section 9 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958)
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 **“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—There is authorized to be appro-
12 priated to the Administrator \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
13 years 2018 through 2022 for carrying out sections 3, 5, and
14 6, of which not more than 5 percent is authorized for each
15 fiscal year for administrative costs.

16 “(b) *AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED FOR COAST GUARD.*—Of
17 the amounts authorized for each fiscal year under section
18 2702(1) of title 14, United States Code, up to \$2,000,000
19 is authorized for the Secretary of the department in which
20 the Coast Guard is operating for use by the Commandant
21 of the Coast Guard to carry out section 4 of this Act, of
22 which not more than 5 percent is authorized for each fiscal
23 year for administrative costs.”.

1 **TITLE II—MARITIME SAFETY**

2 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

3 *This title may be cited as the “Maritime Safety Act*
4 *of 2018”.*

5 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

6 *In this title:*

7 (1) **COMMANDANT.**—*The term “Commandant”*
8 *means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.*

9 (2) **RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION.**—*The term*
10 *“recognized organization” has the meaning given that*
11 *term in section 2.45–1 of title 46, Code of Federal*
12 *Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment*
13 *of this Act.*

14 (3) **SECRETARY.**—*The term “Secretary” means*
15 *the Secretary of the department in which the Coast*
16 *Guard is operating.*

17 **SEC. 203. DOMESTIC VESSEL COMPLIANCE.**

18 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—*Not later than 60 days after the*
19 *date on which the President submits to the Congress a budg-*
20 *et each year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United*
21 *States Code, the Commandant shall publish on a publicly*
22 *accessible Website information documenting domestic vessel*
23 *compliance with the requirements of subtitle II of title 46,*
24 *United States Code.*

1 (b) *CONTENT.*—*The information required under sub-*
2 *section (a) shall—*

3 (1) *include flag-State detention rates for each*
4 *type of inspected vessel; and*

5 (2) *identify any recognized organization that in-*
6 *spected or surveyed a vessel that was later subject to*
7 *a Coast Guard-issued control action attributable to a*
8 *major nonconformity that the recognized organization*
9 *failed to identify in such inspection or survey.*

10 **SEC. 204. SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

11 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Comptroller General of the*
12 *United States shall conduct an audit regarding the imple-*
13 *mentation and effectiveness of safety management plans re-*
14 *quired under chapter 32 of title 46, United States Code.*

15 (b) *SCOPE.*—*The audit conducted under subsection (a)*
16 *shall include a representative sample of safety management*
17 *plans, including such plans for—*

18 (1) *a range of vessel types and sizes; and*

19 (2) *vessels that operate in a cross-section of re-*
20 *gional operating areas.*

21 (c) *REPORT.*—

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after*
23 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller*
24 *General shall submit to Committee on Transportation*
25 *and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives*

1 *and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-*
2 *portation of the Senate a report detailing the results*
3 *of the audit and providing recommendations related*
4 *to such results, including ways to streamline and*
5 *focus such plans on ship safety.*

6 (2) *MARINE SAFETY ALERT.*—*Not later than 60*
7 *days after the date the report is submitted under*
8 *paragraph (1), the Commandant shall publish a Ma-*
9 *rine Safety Alert providing notification of the comple-*
10 *tion of the report and including a link to the report*
11 *on a publicly accessible website.*

12 **SEC. 205. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.**

13 (a) *REGULATIONS.*—

14 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Section 3306 of title 46,*
15 *United States Code, is amended by adding at the end*
16 *the following:*

17 “(l)(1) *The Secretary shall require that a freight vessel*
18 *inspected under this chapter be outfitted with distress sig-*
19 *nalizing and location technology for the higher of—*

20 “(A) *the minimum complement of officers and*
21 *crew specified on the certificate of inspection for such*
22 *vessel; or*

23 “(B) *the number of persons onboard the vessel;*
24 *and*

1 “(2) the requirement described in paragraph (1) shall
2 not apply to vessels operating within the baseline from
3 which the territorial sea of the United States is measured.

4 “(m)(1) The Secretary shall promulgate regulations re-
5 quiring companies to maintain records of all incremental
6 weight changes made to freight vessels inspected under this
7 chapter, and to track weight changes over time to facilitate
8 rapid determination of the aggregate total.

9 “(2) Records maintained under paragraph (1) shall be
10 stored, in paper or electronic form, onboard such vessels for
11 not less than 3 years and shoreside for the life of the vessel.”.

12 (2) *DEADLINES.*—The Secretary shall—

13 (A) begin implementing the requirement
14 under section 3306(l) of title 46, United States
15 Code, as amended by this subsection, by not later
16 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
17 this Act; and

18 (B) promulgate the regulations required
19 under section 3306(m) of title 46, United States
20 Code, as amended by this subsection, by not later
21 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
22 this Act.

23 (b) *ENGAGEMENT.*—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall
25 seek to enter into negotiations through the International

1 *Maritime Organization to amend regulation 25 of chapter*
 2 *II-1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life*
 3 *at Sea to require a high-water alarm sensor in each cargo*
 4 *hold of a freight vessel (as that term is defined in section*
 5 *2101(13) of title 46, United States Code), that connects with*
 6 *audible and visual alarms on the navigation bridge of the*
 7 *vessel.*

8 **SEC. 206. VOYAGE DATA RECORDER; ACCESS.**

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 63 of title 46, United
 10 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 **“§ 6309. Voyage data recorder access**

12 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
 13 Coast Guard shall have full and timely access to and ability
 14 to use voyage data recorder data and audio held by any
 15 Federal agency in all marine casualty investigations, re-
 16 gardless of which agency is the investigative lead.”.

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

“6309. Voyage data recorder access.”.

19 **SEC. 207. VOYAGE DATA RECORDER; REQUIREMENTS.**

20 (a) *FLOAT-FREE AND BEACON REQUIREMENTS.*—

21 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after
 22 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-
 23 mandant shall seek to enter into negotiations through
 24 the International Maritime Organization to amend
 25 regulation 20 of chapter V of the International Con-

1 *vention for the Safety of Life at Sea to require that*
2 *all voyage data recorders are installed in a float-free*
3 *arrangement and contain an integrated emergency*
4 *position indicating radio beacon.*

5 *(2) PROGRESS UPDATE.—Not later than 3 years*
6 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-*
7 *mandant shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-*
8 *tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-*
9 *tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
10 *Transportation of the Senate an update on the*
11 *progress of the engagement required under paragraph*
12 *(1).*

13 *(b) COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.—Not later than 2 years*
14 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant*
15 *shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and In-*
16 *frastructure of the House of Representatives and the Com-*
17 *mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the*
18 *Senate a cost-benefit analysis of requiring that voyage data*
19 *recorders installed on commercial vessels documented under*
20 *chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code, capture commu-*
21 *nications on the internal telephone systems of such vessels,*
22 *including requiring the capture of both sides of all commu-*
23 *nications with the bridge onboard such vessels.*

1 **SEC. 208. SURVIVAL AND LOCATING EQUIPMENT.**

2 *Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment*
3 *of this Act, the Commandant shall, subject to the avail-*
4 *ability of appropriations, identify and procure equipment*
5 *that will provide search-and-rescue units the ability to at-*
6 *tach a radio or Automated Identification System strobe or*
7 *beacon to an object that is not immediately retrievable.*

8 **SEC. 209. TRAINING OF COAST GUARD PERSONNEL.**

9 *(a) PROSPECTIVE SECTOR COMMANDER TRAINING.—*
10 *Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of*
11 *this Act, the Commandant shall implement an Officer in*
12 *Charge, Marine Inspections segment to the sector com-*
13 *mander indoctrination course for prospective sector com-*
14 *manders without a Coast Guard prevention ashore officer*
15 *specialty code.*

16 *(b) STEAMSHIP INSPECTIONS.—Not later than 1 year*
17 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant*
18 *shall implement steam plant inspection training for Coast*
19 *Guard marine inspectors and, subject to availability, recog-*
20 *nized organizations to which authority is delegated under*
21 *section 3316 of title 46, United States Code.*

22 *(c) ADVANCED JOURNEYMAN INSPECTOR TRAINING.—*

23 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after*
24 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-*
25 *mandant shall establish advanced training to provide*
26 *instruction on the oversight of recognized organiza-*

1 *tions to which authority is delegated under section*
2 *3316 of title 46, United States Code, auditing respon-*
3 *sibilities, and the inspection of unique vessel types.*

4 (2) *RECIPIENTS.—The Commandant shall—*

5 (A) *require that such training be completed*
6 *by senior Coast Guard marine inspectors; and*

7 (B) *subject to availability of training ca-*
8 *capacity, make such training available to recog-*
9 *nized organization surveyors authorized by the*
10 *Coast Guard to conduct inspections.*

11 (d) *COAST GUARD INSPECTIONS STAFF; BRIEFING.—*

12 *Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of*
13 *this Act, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee*
14 *on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-*
15 *resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
16 *Transportation of the Senate a briefing detailing—*

17 (1) *the estimated time and funding necessary to*
18 *triple the current size of the Coast Guard’s traveling*
19 *inspector staff; and*

20 (2) *other options available to the Coast Guard to*
21 *enhance and maintain marine safety knowledge, in-*
22 *cluding discussion of increased reliance on—*

23 (A) *civilian marine inspectors;*

24 (B) *experienced licensed mariners;*

25 (C) *retired members of the Coast Guard;*

1 (D) *arranging for Coast Guard inspectors*
 2 *to ride onboard commercial oceangoing vessels*
 3 *documented under chapter 121 of title 46, United*
 4 *States Code, to gain experience and insight; and*

5 (E) *extending tour-lengths for Coast Guard*
 6 *marine safety officers assigned to inspection bil-*
 7 *lets.*

8 (e) **AUDITS; COAST GUARD ATTENDANCE AND PER-**
 9 **FORMANCE.**—*Not later than 180 days after the date of the*
 10 *enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall—*

11 (1) *update Coast Guard policy to utilize risk*
 12 *analysis to target the attendance of Coast Guard per-*
 13 *sonnel during external safety management certificate*
 14 *and document of compliance audits; and*

15 (2) *perform a quality assurance audit of recog-*
 16 *nized organization representation and performance*
 17 *regarding United States-flagged vessels.*

18 **SEC. 210. MAJOR MARINE CASUALTY PROPERTY DAMAGE**

19 **THRESHOLD.**

20 *Section 6101(i)(3) of title 46, United States Code, is*
 21 *amended by striking “\$500,000” and inserting*
 22 *“\$2,000,000”.*

23 **SEC. 211. REVIEWS, BRIEFINGS, AND REPORTS.**

24 (a) **MAJOR CONVERSION DETERMINATIONS.**—

1 (1) *REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.*—
 2 *The Commandant shall conduct a review of policies*
 3 *and procedures for making and documenting major*
 4 *conversion determinations, including an examination*
 5 *of the deference given to precedent.*

6 (2) *BRIEFING.*—*Not later than 1 year after the*
 7 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant*
 8 *shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and*
 9 *Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the*
 10 *Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-*
 11 *tation of the Senate a briefing on the findings of the*
 12 *review required by paragraph (1).*

13 (b) *VENTILATORS, OPENINGS AND STABILITY STAND-*
 14 *ARDS.*—

15 (1) *REVIEW.*—*Note later than 1 year after the*
 16 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant*
 17 *shall complete a review of the effectiveness of United*
 18 *States regulations, international conventions, recog-*
 19 *nized organizations' class rules, and Coast Guard*
 20 *technical policy regarding—*

21 (A) *ventilators and other hull openings;*

22 (B) *fire dampers and other closures pro-*
 23 *tecting openings normally open during oper-*
 24 *ations; and*

1 (C) *intact and damage stability standards*
2 *under subchapter S of chapter I of title 46, Code*
3 *of Federal Regulations.*

4 (2) *BRIEFING.*—*Not later than 18 months after*
5 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-*
6 *mandant shall provide to the Committee on Transpor-*
7 *tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-*
8 *tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
9 *Transportation of the Senate a briefing on the effec-*
10 *tiveness of the regulations, international conventions,*
11 *recognized organizations' class rules, and Coast*
12 *Guard technical policy reviewed under paragraph (1).*

13 (c) *SELF-LOCATING DATUM MARKER BUOYS.*—*Not*
14 *later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this*
15 *Act, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on*
16 *Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-*
17 *resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
18 *Transportation of the Senate a briefing on the reliability*
19 *of self-locating datum marker buoys and other similar tech-*
20 *nology used during Coast Guard search-and-rescue oper-*
21 *ations. The briefing shall include a description of reason-*
22 *able steps the Commandant could take to increase the reli-*
23 *ability of such buoys, including the potential to leverage*
24 *technology used by the Navy, and how protocols could be*

1 *developed to conduct testing of such buoys before using them*
2 *for operations.*

3 *(d) OVERSIGHT PROGRAM; EFFECTIVENESS.—*

4 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after*
5 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-*
6 *mandant shall commission an assessment of the effec-*
7 *tiveness of the Coast Guard’s oversight of recognized*
8 *organizations and its impact on compliance by and*
9 *safety of vessels inspected by such organizations.*

10 *(2) EXPERIENCE.—The assessment commissioned*
11 *under paragraph (1) shall be conducted by a research*
12 *organization with significant experience in maritime*
13 *operations and marine safety.*

14 *(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than*
15 *180 days after the date that the assessment required*
16 *under paragraph (1) is completed, the Commandant*
17 *shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and*
18 *Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the*
19 *Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-*
20 *tation of the Senate the results of such assessment.*

21 **SEC. 212. FLAG-STATE GUIDANCE AND SUPPLEMENTS.**

22 *(a) FREIGHT VESSELS; DAMAGE CONTROL INFORMA-*
23 *TION.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this*
24 *Act, the Secretary shall issue flag-State guidance for all*
25 *freight vessels documented under chapter 121 of title 46,*

1 *United States Code, built before January 1, 1992, regarding*
2 *the inclusion of comprehensive damage control information*
3 *in safety management plans required under chapter 32 of*
4 *title 46, United States Code.*

5 (b) *RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS; UNITED STATES*
6 *SUPPLEMENT.—The Commandant shall—*

7 (1) *work with recognized organizations to create*
8 *a single United States Supplement to rules of such or-*
9 *ganizations for classification of vessels; and*

10 (2) *by not later than 1 year after the date of the*
11 *enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee on*
12 *Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of*
13 *Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,*
14 *Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing*
15 *on whether it is necessary to revise part 8 of title 46,*
16 *Code of Federal Regulations, to authorize only one*
17 *United States Supplement to such rules.*

18 **SEC. 213. MARINE SAFETY STRATEGY.**

19 *Section 2116 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-*
20 *ed—*

21 (1) *in subsection (a), by striking “each year of*
22 *an annual” and inserting “of a triennial”;*

23 (2) *in subsection (b)—*

24 (A) *in the subsection heading, by striking*
25 *“ANNUAL” and inserting “TRIENNIAL”; and*

1 (B) by striking “annual” each place it ap-
2 pears and inserting “triennial”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by striking “fiscal year 2011 and each
5 fiscal year” and inserting “fiscal year 2020 and
6 triennially”; and

7 (B) by striking “annual plan” and insert-
8 ing “triennial plan”; and

9 (4) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “annually”
10 and inserting “triennially”.

11 **SEC. 214. RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS; OVERSIGHT.**

12 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3316 of title 46, United
13 States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (g) as
14 subsection (h), and by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(g)(1) *There shall be within the Coast Guard an office*
17 *that conducts comprehensive and targeted oversight of all*
18 *recognized organizations that act on behalf of the Coast*
19 *Guard.*

20 “(2) *The staff of the office shall include subject matter*
21 *experts, including inspectors, investigators, and auditors,*
22 *who possess the capability and authority to audit all as-*
23 *pects of such recognized organizations.*

24 “(3) *In this subsection the term ‘recognized organiza-*
25 *tion’ has the meaning given that term in section 2.45–1*

1 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the
2 date of the enactment of the Maritime Safety Act of 2018.”.

3 (b) *DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Com-
4 mandant of the Coast Guard shall establish the office re-
5 quired by the amendment made by subsection (a) by not
6 later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act.

8 **SEC. 215. TIMELY WEATHER FORECASTS.**

9 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
10 of this Act, the Commandant shall seek to enter into nego-
11 tiations through the International Maritime Organization
12 to amend the International Convention for the Safety of
13 Life at Sea to require that vessels subject to the require-
14 ments of such Convention receive timely synoptic and
15 graphical chart weather forecasts.

16 **SEC. 216. MARINE SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION STATUS.**

17 Not later than December 19 of 2018, and of each of
18 the 2 subsequent years thereafter, the Commandant shall
19 provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
20 structure of the House of Representatives and the Committee
21 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
22 a briefing on the status of implementation of each action
23 outlined in the Commandant’s final action memo dated De-
24 cember 19, 2017, regarding the sinking and loss of the vessel
25 *El Faro*.

1 **SEC. 217. DELEGATED AUTHORITIES.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
3 of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall review
4 the authorities that have been delegated to recognized orga-
5 nizations for the alternative compliance program as de-
6 scribed in subpart D of part 8 of title 46, Code of Federal
7 Regulations, and, if necessary, revise or establish policies
8 and procedures to ensure those delegated authorities are
9 being conducted in a manner to ensure safe maritime trans-
10 portation.

11 (b) *BRIEFING.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
12 of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide
13 to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
14 tation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation
15 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a brief-
16 ing on the implementation of subsection (a).

17 **TITLE III—CENTER OF**
18 **EXPERTISE**

19 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

20 This title may be cited as the “Coast Guard Blue Tech-
21 nology Center of Expertise Act”.

22 **SEC. 302. COAST GUARD BLUE TECHNOLOGY CENTER OF**
23 **EXPERTISE.**

24 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than one year after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act and subject to the
26 availability of appropriations, the Commandant shall es-

1 *tablish under section 58 of title 14, United States Code, a*
2 *Blue Technology center of expertise.*

3 (b) *MISSIONS.—In addition to the missions listed in*
4 *section 58(b) of title 14, United States Code, the Center—*

5 (1) *shall—*

6 (A) *promote awareness within the Coast*
7 *Guard of the range and diversity of Blue Tech-*
8 *nologies and their potential to enhance Coast*
9 *Guard mission readiness, operational perform-*
10 *ance, and regulation of such technologies;*

11 (B) *function as an interactive conduit to*
12 *enable the sharing and dissemination of Blue*
13 *Technology information between the Coast Guard*
14 *and representatives from the private sector, aca-*
15 *demia, nonprofit organizations, and other Fed-*
16 *eral agencies;*

17 (C) *increase awareness among Blue Tech-*
18 *nology manufacturers, entrepreneurs, and ven-*
19 *dors of Coast Guard acquisition policies, proce-*
20 *dures, and business practices; and*

21 (D) *provide technical support, coordination,*
22 *and assistance to Coast Guard districts and the*
23 *Coast Guard Research and Development Center,*
24 *as appropriate; and*

1 (2) *subject to the requirements of the Coast*
2 *Guard Academy, may coordinate with the Academy*
3 *to develop appropriate curricula regarding Blue Tech-*
4 *nology to be offered in professional courses of study to*
5 *give Coast Guard cadets and officer candidates a*
6 *greater background and understanding of Blue Tech-*
7 *nologies.*

8 (c) *BLUE TECHNOLOGY EXPOSITION; BRIEFING.—Not*
9 *later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this*
10 *Act, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on*
11 *Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-*
12 *resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
13 *Transportation of the Senate a briefing on the costs and*
14 *benefits of hosting a biennial Coast Guard Blue Technology*
15 *exposition to further interactions between representatives*
16 *from the private sector, academia, and nonprofit organiza-*
17 *tions, and the Coast Guard and examine emerging tech-*
18 *nologies and Coast Guard mission demands.*

19 (d) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

20 (1) *CENTER.—The term “Center” means the*
21 *Blue Technology center of expertise established under*
22 *this section.*

23 (2) *COMMANDANT.—The term “Commandant”*
24 *means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.*

1 (3) *BLUE TECHNOLOGY*.—The term “*Blue Tech-*
2 *nology*” means any technology, system, or platform
3 that—

4 (A) is designed for use or application above,
5 on, or below the sea surface or that is otherwise
6 applicable to Coast Guard operational needs, in-
7 cluding such a technology, system, or platform
8 that provides continuous or persistent coverage;
9 and

10 (B) supports or facilitates—

11 (i) maritime domain awareness, in-
12 cluding—

13 (I) surveillance and monitoring;

14 (II) observation, measurement,
15 and modeling; or

16 (III) information technology and
17 communications;

18 (ii) search and rescue;

19 (iii) emergency response;

20 (iv) maritime law enforcement;

21 (v) marine inspections and investiga-
22 tions; or

- 1 *(vi) protection and conservation of the*
- 2 *marine environment.*

Attest:

Clerk.

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 756

AMENDMENT