

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6728

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for an exemption to the manning and crewing requirements for certain outer Continental Shelf vessels, vehicles, and structures, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for an exemption to the manning and crewing requirements for certain outer Continental Shelf vessels, vehicles, and structures, 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 “American Offshore  
5 Worker Fairness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MANNING AND CREWING REQUIREMENTS FOR CER-**  
2 **TAIN OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF VESSELS,**  
3 **VEHICLES, AND STRUCTURES.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF LIMITED EXEMPTIONS  
5 FROM MANNING AND CREW REQUIREMENT.—Section  
6 30(c) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43  
7 U.S.C. 1356(c)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “; and”  
9 and inserting a period;

10 (2) by striking “(c) The regulations issued  
11 under subsection (a)(3) of this section” and all that  
12 follows through “to any vessel, rig, platform, or  
13 other vehicle or structure if” and inserting the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 “(c) EXEMPTIONS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The regulations issued  
17 under subsection (a)(3) shall not apply to any vessel,  
18 rig, platform, or other vehicle or structure if”; and

19 (3) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by striking “the exploration, develop-  
21 ment, or production of oil and gas” and insert-  
22 ing “exploring for, developing, or producing re-  
23 sources, including nonmineral energy re-  
24 sources,”;

25 (B) by striking “(2) to any vessel” and in-  
26 serting the following:

1           “(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN FOREIGN-  
2 OWNED VESSELS, RIGS, PLATFORMS, AND OTHER  
3 VEHICLES OR STRUCTURES.—

4           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the re-  
5 quirements of this paragraph, the regulations  
6 issued under subsection (a)(3) shall not apply  
7 to any vessel”; and

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

9           “(B) CONDITION.—An exemption under  
10 subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the condi-  
11 tion that each individual who is manning or  
12 crewing the vessel, rig, platform, or other vehi-  
13 cle or structure is—

14           “(i) a citizen of the United States;

15           “(ii) an alien lawfully admitted to the  
16 United States for permanent residence; or

17           “(iii) a citizen of the nation under the  
18 laws of which the vessel, rig, platform, or  
19 other vehicle or structure is documented.

20           “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—An exemption  
21 under subparagraph (A)—

22           “(i) shall provide that the number of  
23 individuals manning or crewing the vessel,  
24 rig, platform, or other vehicle or structure  
25 who are individuals described in clause (ii)

1 or (iii) of subparagraph (B) may not ex-  
2 ceed 2.5 times the number of individuals  
3 required to man or crew the vessel, rig,  
4 platform, or other vehicle or structure  
5 under the laws of the nation in which the  
6 vessel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or  
7 structure is documented; and

8 “(ii) subject to subparagraph (D),  
9 shall be effective for not more than 1 year.

10 “(D) APPLICATION.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The owner or op-  
12 erator of a vessel, rig, platform, or other  
13 vehicle or structure described in subpara-  
14 graph (A) may submit to the Secretary of  
15 the department in which the Coast Guard  
16 is operating an application for an exemp-  
17 tion or a renewal of an exemption under  
18 that subparagraph.

19 “(ii) CONTENTS.—An application  
20 under clause (i) shall include a sworn  
21 statement by the applicant of all informa-  
22 tion required by the Secretary of the de-  
23 partment in which the Coast Guard is op-  
24 erating for the issuance of the exemption.

25 “(E) REVOCATIONS.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
2           the department in which the Coast Guard  
3           is operating may revoke an exemption for  
4           a vessel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or  
5           structure under subparagraph (A) if the  
6           Secretary of the department in which the  
7           Coast Guard is operating determines that  
8           information provided in the application for  
9           the exemption—

10                   “(I) was false or incomplete; or

11                   “(II) is no longer true or com-  
12                   plete.

13           “(ii) MANNING OR CREWING VIOLA-  
14           TION.—The Secretary of the department in  
15           which the Coast Guard is operating shall  
16           immediately revoke an exemption for a ves-  
17           sel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or struc-  
18           ture under subparagraph (A) if the Sec-  
19           retary of the department in which the  
20           Coast Guard is operating determines that,  
21           during the effective period of the exemp-  
22           tion, the vessel, rig, platform, or other ve-  
23           hicle or structure was manned or crewed in  
24           a manner that—

1                   “(I) was not authorized by the  
2 exemption; or

3                   “(II) does not otherwise comply  
4 with this paragraph.

5                   “(iii) NOTICE.—The Secretary of the  
6 department in which the Coast Guard is  
7 operating shall provide notice of a deter-  
8 mination and revocation under clause (i) or  
9 (ii) to the owner, operator, agent, or mas-  
10 ter of the vessel, rig, platform, or other ve-  
11 hicle or structure.

12                   “(F) REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE.—

13                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
14 the department in which the Coast Guard  
15 is operating shall periodically, but not less  
16 frequently than annually, inspect each ves-  
17 sel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or struc-  
18 ture for which an exemption under sub-  
19 paragraph (A) has been granted to verify  
20 the compliance of the vessel, rig, platform,  
21 or other vehicle or structure with this  
22 paragraph.

23                   “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—During each  
24 inspection of a vessel, rig, platform, or  
25 other vehicle or structure under clause (i),

1 the Secretary of the department in which  
2 the Coast Guard is operating shall require  
3 all individuals who are manning or crewing  
4 the vessel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or  
5 structure to hold a valid Transportation  
6 Worker Identification Credential.

7 “(G) CIVIL PENALTIES.—The Secretary of  
8 the department in which the Coast Guard is op-  
9 erating may impose on the owner or operator of  
10 a vessel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or struc-  
11 ture for which an exemption under subpara-  
12 graph (A) has been granted a civil penalty of  
13 \$10,000 per day for each day the vessel, rig,  
14 platform, or other vehicle or structure—

15 “(i) is manned or crewed in violation  
16 of this paragraph; or

17 “(ii) operates under the exemption, if  
18 the Secretary of the department in which  
19 the Coast Guard is operating determines  
20 that—

21 “(I) the exemption was not val-  
22 idly obtained; or

23 “(II) information provided in the  
24 application for the exemption was  
25 false or incomplete.

1           “(H) NOTIFICATION OF SECRETARY OF  
2           STATE.—The Secretary of the department in  
3           which the Coast Guard is operating shall notify  
4           the Secretary of State of each exemption issued  
5           under this subsection, including information on  
6           the effective period of the exemption.”.

7           (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the  
8           date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the depart-  
9           ment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall promul-  
10          gate regulations that specify the application requirements  
11          and process and other requirements for an exemption  
12          under subsection (c)(2)(A) of section 30 of the Outer Con-  
13          tinental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1356) (as amended  
14          by subsection (a)).

15          (c) EXISTING EXEMPTIONS.—

16                (1) IN GENERAL.—During the 120-day period  
17                beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, each  
18                exemption granted under section 30(c)(2) of the  
19                Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.  
20                1356(c)(2)) (as in effect on the day before the date  
21                of enactment of this Act) before the date of enact-  
22                ment of this Act—

23                        (A) shall remain in effect; and

24                        (B) shall not be affected by the amend-  
25                        ments made by subsection (a).

1           (2) TERMINATION.—On the day after the last  
2 day of the period described in paragraph (1), each  
3 exemption described in such paragraph shall termi-  
4 nate.

5           (3) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days  
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
7 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard  
8 is operating shall notify all persons that hold an ex-  
9 emption described in paragraph (1) that the exemp-  
10 tion will terminate in accordance with paragraph  
11 (2).

12       (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
15 thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which  
16 the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to Con-  
17 gress a report that describes the number of exemp-  
18 tions granted under subsection (c)(2)(A) of section  
19 30 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43  
20 U.S.C. 1356) during the preceding year.

21           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each report under para-  
22 graph (1) shall list for each vessel, rig, platform, or  
23 other vehicle or structure granted an exemption dur-  
24 ing the preceding year—

1           (A) the name and International Maritime  
2 Organization number of the vessel, rig, plat-  
3 form, or other vehicle or structure;

4           (B) the flag of the vessel, rig, platform, or  
5 other vehicle or structure;

6           (C) the nationality of the 1 or more owners  
7 of the vessel, rig, platform, or other vehicle or  
8 structure; and

9           (D) any changes to the information de-  
10 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (C) appli-  
11 cable to the vessel, rig, platform, or other vehi-  
12 cle or structure if the vessel, rig, platform, or  
13 other vehicle or structure has received a prior  
14 exemption under subsection (c)(2)(A) of section  
15 30 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act  
16 (43 U.S.C. 1356) or section 30(c)(2) of the  
17 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.  
18 1356(c)(2)) (as in effect on the day before the  
19 date of enactment of this Act).

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