

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2125

To establish a National Commission on the Maritime Industrial Base, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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

A BILL

To establish a National Commission on the Maritime
Industrial Base, 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 “Save Our Shipyards
5 Act of 2025” or the “SOS Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 “National Commission on the Maritime Industrial Base”

1 or the “SOS Commission” (in this Act referred to as the
2 “Commission”).

3 **SEC. 3. FUNCTIONS.**

4 (a) INVESTIGATION AND STUDY.—The Commission
5 shall complete an investigation and study the condition of
6 the United States maritime industry and any impediments
7 to a strong and competitive United States maritime indus-
8 try, with a particular focus on the needs of the United
9 States military, including shipyards, shipbuilding and re-
10 pairs, harbors, and skilled workforce.

11 (b) POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.—Based on the re-
12 sults of the investigation and study under subsection (a),
13 the Commission shall recommend to the President and
14 Congress policies which should be adopted to—

15 (1) achieve the national goal of a strong United
16 States maritime industry which will help to provide
17 for the national defense;

18 (2) revitalize the United States naval fleet and
19 maintain that fleet at a level sufficient to contribute
20 to the national defense;

21 (3) foster a viable United States shipbuilding
22 industry to provide an industrial base for meeting
23 present and future military and civilian shipbuilding
24 needs; and

1 (4) reduce the loss of seafaring and ship-
2 building jobs for United States citizens so as to en-
3 sure the existence of a reliable maritime labor force.

4 **SEC. 4. SPECIFIC MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.**

5 In investigating and studying under section 3, the
6 Commission shall investigate and study the following:

7 (1) CURRENT CONDITION OF UNITED STATES
8 MARITIME INDUSTRY.—The current condition of the
9 United States maritime industry, including how the
10 condition of the industry is likely to change over the
11 next 10 years following the date of enactment of this
12 Act.

13 (2) NATIONAL DEFENSE.—The adequacy of the
14 United States maritime industry to ensure the na-
15 tional defense.

16 (3) MARITIME LABOR.—The adequacy of skilled
17 mariners and shipyard workers, and the level of
18 training of United States mariners at training facili-
19 ties in the United States.

20 (4) IMPEDIMENTS TO STRONG AND COMPETI-
21 TIVE MARITIME INDUSTRY.—Whether the Federal
22 Government should take any legislative or adminis-
23 trative actions related to the United States maritime
24 industry to strengthen our national security, includ-
25 ing—

1 (A) the tax and regulatory burden on the
2 US maritime industry;

3 (B) incentives to encourage investment in
4 United States shipyards and shipbuilding;

5 (C) incentives for personnel to enter the
6 skilled labor workforce for shipbuilding;

7 (D) the effect of subsidies and other finan-
8 cial assistance by foreign governments to their
9 vessel operators and shipbuilders;

10 (E) the effects of great power competition
11 and a potential war on United States naval and
12 maritime forces; and

13 (F) the prioritization of national security
14 related matters in regulatory review and ap-
15 proval processes.

16 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP; ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**

17 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be com-
18 posed of 15 voting commissioners and 7 non-voting mem-
19 bers appointed in the following manner:

20 (1) 5 voting commissioners appointed by the
21 President.

22 (2) 7 non-voting members appointed by the
23 President who shall be chosen from the list described
24 in subsection (c).

1 (3) 3 voting commissioners appointed by the
2 majority leader of the Senate.

3 (4) 3 voting commissioners appointed by the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

5 (5) 2 voting commissioners appointed by the
6 minority leader of the Senate.

7 (6) 2 voting commissioners appointed by the
8 minority leader of the House of Representatives.

9 (b) QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING COMMIS-
10 SIONERS.—Voting commissioners appointed under sub-
11 section (a) shall be appointed from among United States
12 citizens who are experts in commercial shipping, inter-
13 national trade, maritime industry policy and regulations,
14 and related disciplines and who can represent United
15 States-flagged vessel operators (including domestic pas-
16 senger vessel operators), seafaring and shipbuilding labor,
17 shipbuilders, shippers, and the financial community with
18 expertise in maritime matters.

19 (c) QUALIFICATIONS OF NON-VOTING MEMBERS.—
20 One non-voting member appointed under subsection (a)
21 shall be appointed from each of the following:

22 (1) The Navy.

23 (2) The Coast Guard.

24 (3) The United States Maritime Service.

25 (4) The Marine Corps.

1 (5) The United States Naval War College.

2 (6) The Maritime Administration.

3 (7) The United States Merchant Maritime
4 Academy.

5 (d) TERMS OF OFFICE.—Members and commis-
6 sioners shall be appointed for the duration of the Commis-
7 sion.

8 (e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90 days after
9 two-thirds of the voting commissioners have been ap-
10 pointed under this section, the Commission shall be con-
11 sidered active and the Commission shall hold a first meet-
12 ing.

13 (f) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
14 be filled in the manner in which the original appointment
15 was made.

16 (g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members and commis-
17 sioners shall serve without pay but shall receive travel ex-
18 penses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
19 cordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
20 States Code.

21 (h) CHAIR.—The President, in consultation with the
22 majority leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, shall designate the Chair of the
24 Commission from among its voting members.

1 (i) QUORUM.—For the purposes of conducting meet-
2 ings of the Commission, a quorum of the Commission shall
3 be considered the presence of 10 voting commissioners.

4 (j) COMMISSION PANELS.—The Chair shall establish
5 such panels consisting of voting commissioners as the
6 Chair determines appropriate to carry out the functions
7 of the Commission.

8 (k) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and fix
9 the pay of such personnel as the Commission determines
10 appropriate.

11 (l) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request of
12 the Commission, the head of any department or agency
13 of the United States may detail, on a reimbursable basis,
14 any of the personnel of that department or agency to the
15 Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties under
16 this title.

17 (m) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
18 request of the Commission, the Administrator of General
19 Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimburs-
20 able basis, the administrative support services necessary
21 for the Commission to carry out its duties under this title.

22 (n) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
23 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
24 United States information (other than information re-
25 quired by any statute of the United States to be kept con-

1 fidential by such department or agency) necessary for the
2 Commission to carry out its duties under this title. Upon
3 request of the Commission, the head of that department
4 or agency shall furnish such nonconfidential information
5 to the Commission.

6 (o) SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR COMMISSIONERS,
7 MEMBERS, AND STAFF.—The appropriate Federal depart-
8 ments or agencies shall cooperate with the Commission in
9 expeditiously providing to commissioners, members, and
10 staff appropriate security clearances to the extent possible
11 pursuant to existing procedures and requirements, except
12 that no person may be provided with access to classified
13 information under this Act without the appropriate secu-
14 rity clearances.

15 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
17 date on which the Commission holds the first meeting
18 under section 5, the Commission shall transmit to the
19 President and Congress a report on the activities of the
20 Commission, including recommendations made by the
21 Commission under section 3(b) which shall be considered
22 by the relevant congressional committees for possible legis-
23 lative action.

1 (b) CLASSIFICATION.—The report under subsection
2 (a) shall be transmitted in an unclassified form but may
3 include a classified annex.

4 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

5 The Commission shall terminate on the date that is
6 30 days after the transmittal of the report under section
7 6.

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