

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1190

To establish a Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish a Secretary of the Coast Guard, 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 Improve-
5 ment Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

8 (1) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—The
9 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et
10 seq.) is amended—

1 (A) in section 103 (6 U.S.C. 113)—

2 (i) by redesignating subsections (c)
3 through (g) as subsections (d) through (h),
4 respectively;

5 (ii) by inserting after subsection (b)
6 the following:

7 “(c) SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is a Secretary of the
9 Coast Guard, appointed by the President, by and
10 with the advice and consent of the Senate.

11 “(2) GENERAL POWERS.—Subject to the au-
12 thority, direction, and control of the Secretary, when
13 the Coast Guard is operating as a service in the De-
14 partment, the Secretary of the Coast Guard shall ex-
15 ercise the powers of the Secretary under section
16 501(a) of title 14, United States Code, and other
17 duties as may be prescribed by law or by the Presi-
18 dent or the Secretary, in directing the Coast Guard.

19 “(3) DIRECT REPORTING TO SECRETARY.—At
20 all times, the Secretary of the Coast Guard shall re-
21 port directly to the Secretary without intervening
22 authority.

23 “(4) CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF THE
24 NAVY.—When the Coast Guard is operating as a
25 service in the Navy, the Secretary of the Coast

1 Guard may advise the Secretary of the Navy on
 2 matters relating to the Coast Guard.

3 “(5) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT.—No offi-
 4 cer serving in an appointment under subsection (a)
 5 may be appointed to carry out the duties of Sec-
 6 retary of the Coast Guard.”; and

7 (iii) by amending subsection (d), as
 8 redesignated, to read as follows:

9 “(d) COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD.—To as-
 10 sist the Secretary of the Coast Guard in the performance
 11 of the functions of the Secretary of the Coast Guard, there
 12 is a Commandant of the Coast Guard, who shall be ap-
 13 pointed as provided in section 302 of title 14, United
 14 States Code, and who shall report directly to the Secretary
 15 of the Coast Guard. In addition to such duties as may
 16 be provided in this Act and as assigned to the Com-
 17 mandant by the Secretary of the Coast Guard, the duties
 18 of the Commandant shall include those required by section
 19 102 of title 14, United States Code.”; and

20 (B) in section 888(f) (6 U.S.C. 468(f))—

21 (i) by striking “Upon the transfer”
 22 and inserting the following:

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the transfer”;

24 (ii) in paragraph (1), as so des-
 25 ignated, by striking “the Secretary” and

1 inserting “the Secretary of the Coast
2 Guard”; and

3 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(2) EXCEPTION.—When the Coast Guard is
6 operating as a service in the Navy, the Commandant
7 shall report directly to the Secretary of the Navy.”.

8 (2) TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 10
9 of the United States Code, is amended—

10 (A) in section 101(a)(9)(D), by striking
11 “the Secretary of Homeland Security” and in-
12 serting “the Secretary of the Coast Guard”;
13 and

14 (B) in section 8013a—

15 (i) by striking “section 3 of title 14”
16 and inserting “section 103 of title 14”;
17 and

18 (ii) by striking “the Secretary of
19 Homeland Security” and inserting “the
20 Secretary of the Coast Guard”.

21 (3) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 14
22 of the United States Code, is amended—

23 (A) in section 501—

24 (i) by redesignating subsections (a)
25 through (h) as paragraphs (1) through (8),

1 respectively, and moving such paragraphs
2 two ems to the right;

3 (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph
4 (1), as redesignated, by striking “For” and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For”; and

7 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(b) SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is a Secretary of the
11 Coast Guard, appointed from civilian life by the
12 President, by and with the advice and consent of the
13 Senate. The Secretary of the Coast Guard shall, to
14 the greatest extent practicable, be appointed from
15 among individuals most highly qualified for the posi-
16 tion by reason of background and experience, includ-
17 ing individuals with appropriate management or
18 leadership experience. The Secretary of the Coast
19 Guard is the head of the Coast Guard.

20 “(2) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT.—An indi-
21 vidual may not be appointed as the Secretary of the
22 Coast Guard during the 5-year period beginning on
23 the date on which the individual is relieved from ac-
24 tive duty (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10)
25 as a commissioned officer of a regular component of

any of the Armed Forces (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10).

“(3) FUNCTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Homeland Security and subject to the other provisions of this title, Secretary of the Coast Guard is responsible for, and has the authority necessary to conduct, all affairs of the Coast Guard, including the following functions:

“(i) Recruiting.

“(ii) Organizing.

“(iii) Supplying.

“(iv) Equipping, including research and development.

“(v) Training.

“(vi) Servicing.

“(vii) Mobilizing.

“(viii) Demobilizing.

“(ix) Administering, including the morale and welfare of personnel.

“(x) Maintaining.

“(xi) The construction, outfitting, and repair of military equipment.

1 “(xii) The construction, maintenance,
2 and repair of buildings, structures, and
3 utilities and the acquisition of real prop-
4 erty and interests in real property nec-
5 essary to carry out the responsibilities
6 specified in this section.

7 “(B) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—
8 Subject to the authority, direction, and control
9 of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Sec-
10 retary of the Coast Guard is also responsible to
11 the Secretary of Homeland Security for—

12 “(i) the functioning and efficiency of
13 the Coast Guard;

14 “(ii) the formulation of policies and
15 programs of the Coast Guard that are fully
16 consistent with national security objectives
17 and policies established by the President or
18 the Secretary of Homeland Security;

19 “(iii) the effective and timely imple-
20 mentation of policy, program, and budget
21 decisions and instructions of the President
22 or the Secretary of Homeland Security re-
23 lating to the functions of the Coast Guard;
24 and

1 “(iv) carrying out the functions of the
 2 Coast Guard so as to fulfill the current
 3 and future operational requirements;

4 “(v) effective cooperation and coordi-
 5 nation between the Coast Guard and the
 6 other military departments (as defined in
 7 section 101(a) of title 10) and agencies of
 8 the Department of Defense and the De-
 9 partment of Homeland Security to provide
 10 for more effective, efficient, and economical
 11 administration and to eliminate duplica-
 12 tion;

13 “(vi) the presentation and justification
 14 of the positions of the Coast Guard on the
 15 plans, programs, and policies of the De-
 16 partment of Homeland Security; and

17 “(vii) the effective supervision and
 18 control of the intelligence activities of the
 19 Coast Guard.

20 “(C) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Sec-
 21 retary of the Coast Guard is also responsible
 22 for such other activities as may be prescribed
 23 by law or by the President or Secretary of
 24 Homeland Security.

1 “(4) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—After
 2 first informing the Secretary of Homeland Security,
 3 the Secretary of the Coast Guard may make such
 4 recommendations to Congress relating to the De-
 5 partment of Homeland Security as the Secretary of
 6 the Coast Guard considers appropriate.

7 “(5) DELEGATION.—The Secretary of the Coast
 8 Guard may assign the functions, powers, and duties
 9 of the Secretary of the Coast Guard, as the Sec-
 10 retary of the Coast Guard considers appropriate, to
 11 any Under Secretary or Assistant Secretary that has
 12 been established and has the advice and consent of
 13 the Senate.

14 “(6) ADDITIONAL POWERS.—The Secretary of
 15 the Coast Guard may—

16 “(A) assign, detail, and prescribe the du-
 17 ties of members of the Coast Guard and civilian
 18 personnel of the Coast Guard;

19 “(B) change the title of any officer or ac-
 20 tivity of the Coast Guard not prescribed by law;
 21 and

22 “(C) prescribe regulations to carry out his
 23 functions, powers, and duties under this title.”;
 24 and

1 (B) by amending section 505 to read as
2 follows:

3 **“§ 505. Functions and powers vested in the Com-**
4 **mandant**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The function of the Com-
6 mandant is to assist the Secretary of the Coast Guard in
7 carrying out the responsibilities of the Coast Guard. Ex-
8 cept as otherwise specifically prescribed by law, the Com-
9 mandant shall perform such duties and have such titles,
10 as the Secretary of the department in which the Coast
11 Guard is operating may prescribe.

12 “(b) DUTIES.—Under the authority, direction, and
13 control of the Secretary of the Coast Guard, the Com-
14 mandant shall—

15 “(1) prepare for such employment of the Coast
16 Guard, and for such recruiting, organizing, sup-
17 plying, equipping (including aspects of research and
18 development assigned by the Secretary of the Coast
19 Guard), training, servicing, mobilizing, demobilizing,
20 administering, and maintaining of the Coast Guard,
21 as will assist in the execution of any power, duty, or
22 function of the Secretary of the department in which
23 the Coast Guard is operating;

24 “(2) investigate and report upon the efficiency
25 of the Coast Guard and its preparation to support

1 all operations pursuant to the department in which
2 the Coast Guard is operating;

3 “(3) prepare detailed instructions for the execu-
4 tion of approved plans and supervise the execution
5 of such plans and instructions;

6 “(4) as directed by the Secretary of the Coast
7 Guard, coordinate the action of organizations of the
8 Coast Guard; and

9 “(5) perform such other duties, not otherwise
10 assigned by law, as may be prescribed by the Sec-
11 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard
12 is operating.”.

13 (4) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
14 1137(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended
15 by striking “section 501(d)” and inserting “section
16 501(a)(4)”.

17 (b) REORGANIZATION PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
20 of Homeland Security shall submit to the appro-
21 priate committees of Congress a reorganization plan
22 with respect to—

23 (A) the number of military and civilian
24 personnel of the Coast Guard to be assigned to
25 the Office of the Secretary of the Coast Guard

1 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 103 of the
2 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113);
3 and

4 (B) any reorganization of the Department
5 of Homeland Security necessary as a result of
6 the establishment of the Secretary of the Coast
7 Guard under subsection (c) of section 103 of
8 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
9 113), consistent with sections 101(b) and 888
10 of that Act (6 U.S.C. 111(b), 468).

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by para-
12 graph (1) shall include following:

13 (A) Recommendations with respect to leg-
14 islative changes necessary to transfer respon-
15 sibilities from the Commandant to the Sec-
16 retary of the Coast Guard, including with re-
17 spect to such responsibilities under—

18 (i) title 10 of the United States Code;

19 (ii) title 14 of the United States Code;

20 and

21 (iii) any law relating to navigation or
22 navigable waters applicable to the Coast
23 Guard.

24 (B) Specification of the steps to be taken
25 by the Secretary of Homeland Security—

1 (i) to transfer responsibilities from the
2 Secretary of Homeland Security or the
3 Commandant of the Coast Guard to the
4 Secretary of the Coast Guard; and

5 (ii) to organize the Office of the Sec-
6 retary of the Coast Guard, including the
7 delegation or assignment of functions to
8 the Secretary of the Coast Guard, so as to
9 allow the Secretary of the Coast Guard to
10 carry out the responsibilities identified
11 under clause (i).

12 (C) Specification of any proposed disposi-
13 tion of property, facility, contract, record, or
14 other asset or obligation to be transferred
15 under the plan.

16 (D) Specification of the funds available
17 that will be transferred to the Office of the Sec-
18 retary of the Coast Guard as a result of trans-
19 fers under the plan.

20 (E) A date on which the plan shall become
21 effective.

22 (F) Any other element the Secretary of
23 Homeland Security considers appropriate.

24 (3) CONSIDERATION.—The plan required by
25 paragraph (1) shall take into consideration the role

1 of the Secretary of the Coast Guard when the Coast
2 Guard is operating as a service in the Navy.

3 (4) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary of Home-
4 land Security, in consultation with the appropriate
5 committees of Congress, may modify or revise any
6 part of the plan required by this subsection until the
7 date on which the plan becomes effective in accord-
8 ance with date set forth under paragraph (2)(E).

9 (5) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
10 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
11 priate committees of Congress” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
13 and Transportation, the Committee on Home-
14 land Security and Governmental Affairs, and
15 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
16 and

17 (B) the Committee on Transportation and
18 Infrastructure, the Committee on Homeland Se-
19 curity, and the Committee on Appropriations of
20 the House of Representatives.

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