## Union Calendar No. 411

118TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

# H.R. 7659

[Report No. 118-495]

To authorize and amend authorities, programs, and statutes administered by the Coast Guard.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 13, 2024

Mr. Graves of Missouri (for himself, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Webster of Florida, and Mr. Carbajal) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

May 8, 2024

Additional sponsor: Mrs. González-Colón

May 8, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 13, 2024]

## A BILL

To authorize and amend authorities, programs, and statutes administered by the Coast Guard.

- 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024".
- 6 (b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for
- 7 this Act is as follows:
  - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
  - Sec. 2. Commandant defined.

#### TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

- Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 102. Shoreside infrastructure and facilities and information technology.
- Sec. 103. Availability of amounts for acquisition of additional vessels and aircraft.
- Sec. 104. Authorization for certain programs and services.
- Sec. 105. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

#### TITLE II—COAST GUARD

#### Subtitle A—Organization and Authorities

- Sec. 201. Prohibition on use of lead systems integrators.
- Sec. 202. Minor construction increase.
- Sec. 203. Tsunami evacuation plans.
- Sec. 204. Service life extension programs.
- Sec. 205. Maritime domain awareness in Coast Guard sector for Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.
- Sec. 206. Public availability of information on monthly drug and migrant interdictions.
- Sec. 207. Report on establishment of unmanned systems capabilities office.
- Sec. 208. Great Lakes icebreaker.
- Sec. 209. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procurement.
- Sec. 210. Authorization of certain support for Coast Guard Academy foundations.
- Sec. 211. National Coast Guard Museum.
- Sec. 212. Regular Polar Security Cutter updates.
- Sec. 213. Technology pilot program.
- Sec. 214. Report on condition of Missouri River dayboards.
- Sec. 215. Delegation of ports and waterways safety authorities in St. Lawrence seaway.
- Sec. 216. Study on Coast Guard missions.
- Sec. 217. Additional Pribilof Island transition completion actions.

#### Subtitle B—Personnel

Sec. 221. Direct hire authority for civilian faculty at the Coast Guard Academy.

- Sec. 222. Temporary exemption from authorized end strength for Coast Guard enlisted members on active duty.
- Sec. 223. Additional available guidance and considerations for reserve selection boards.
- Sec. 224. Parental leave parity for members of certain reserve components of Coast Guard.
- Sec. 225. Authorization for maternity uniform allowance for officers.
- Sec. 226. Report on GAO recommendations on housing program.

#### TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

#### Subtitle A—Vessel Operations

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
- Sec. 302. Notification.
- Sec. 303. Publication of fines and penalties.

#### Subtitle B—Merchant Mariner Credentialing

- Sec. 311. Revising merchant mariner deck training requirements.
- Sec. 312. Amendments.
- Sec. 313. Renewal of merchant mariner licenses and documents.
- Sec. 314. Merchant seamen licenses, certificates, and documents; manning of vessels

#### Subtitle C—Vessel Safety

- Sec. 321. Grossly negligent operations of a vessel.
- Sec. 322. Administrative procedure for security risks.
- Sec. 323. Requirements for DUKW amphibious passenger vessels.
- Sec. 324. Risk based examination of tank vessels.
- Sec. 325. Ports and waterways safety.
- Sec. 326. Study on Bering Strait vessel traffic projections and emergency response posture at the port of Point Spencer, Alaska.
- Sec. 327. Underwater inspections brief.
- Sec. 328. St. Lucie River railroad bridge.
- Sec. 329. Rulemaking regarding port access routes.
- Sec. 330. Articulated tug-barge manning.

#### Subtitle D—Other Matters

- Sec. 341. Anchor handling activities.
- Sec. 342. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems.
- Sec. 343. Controlled substance onboard vessels.
- Sec. 344. Nonoperating individual.
- Sec. 345. Information on type approval certificates.
- Sec. 346. Manning and crewing requirements for certain vessels, vehicles, and structures.
- Sec. 347. Classification societies.
- Sec. 348. Authority to establish safety zones for special activities in exclusive economic zone.
- Sec. 349. Fishing vessel and fisherman training safety.
- Sec. 350. Authority over Deepwater Port Act of 1974.
- Sec. 351. National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee composition.
- Sec. 352. Improving Vessel Traffic Service monitoring.
- Sec. 353. Abandoned and derelict vessel removals.

- Sec. 354. Near shore cable laying barge.
- Sec. 355. Anchorages.

#### TITLE IV—OIL POLLUTION INCIDENT LIABILITY

- Sec. 401. Vessel response plans.
- Sec. 402. Use of marine casualty investigations.
- Sec. 403. Timing of review.
- Sec. 404. Online incident reporting system.

#### TITLE V—IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sec. 501. Implementation status of directed actions.
- Sec. 502. Independent review of Coast Guard reforms.
- $Sec.\ 503.\ Requirement\ to\ maintain\ certain\ records.$
- Sec. 504. Study on Coast Guard Academy oversight.
- Sec. 505. Providing for the transfer of a cadet who is the victim of a sexual assault or related offense.
- Sec. 506. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or healthcare.
- Sec. 507. Direct hire authority for certain personnel of Coast Guard.
- Sec. 508. Safe-to-report policy for Coast Guard.
- Sec. 509. Modification of delivery date of Coast Guard sexual assault report.
- Sec. 510. Higher-level review of board of determination decisions.
- Sec. 511. Review of discharge or dismissal.
- Sec. 512. Convicted sex offender as grounds for denial.
- Sec. 513. Coast Guard Academy room reassignment.

#### TITLE VI—AMENDMENTS

Sec. 601. Amendments.

#### 1 SEC. 2. COMMANDANT DEFINED.

- 2 In this Act, the term "Commandant" means the Com-
- 3 mandant of the Coast Guard.

## 4 TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF

## 5 **APPROPRIATIONS**

- 6 SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- 7 Section 4902 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
- 8 *ed*—
- 9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
- striking "fiscal years 2022 and 2023" and inserting
- 11 "fiscal years 2025 and 2026";

1	(2) in paragraph (1)—
2	(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking clauses
3	(i) and (ii) and inserting the following:
4	"(i) \$11,287,500,000 for fiscal year 2025;
5	and
6	"(ii) \$11,851,875,000 for fiscal year 2026.";
7	(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking
8	"\$23,456,000" and inserting "\$25,570,000"; and
9	(C) in subparagraph (C) by striking
10	"\$24,353,000" and inserting "\$26,848,500";
11	(3) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking clauses (i)
12	and (ii) and inserting the following:
13	"(i) \$3,477,600,000 for fiscal year 2025;
14	and
15	"(ii) \$3,651,480,000 for fiscal year 2026.";
16	(4) in paragraph (3) by striking subparagraphs
17	(A) and (B) and inserting the following:
18	"(A) \$15,415,000 for fiscal year 2025; and
19	"(B) \$16,185,750 for fiscal year 2026."; and
20	(5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the
21	following:
22	"(4) For retired pay, including the payment of
23	obligations otherwise chargeable to lapsed appropria-
24	tions for purposes of retired pay, payments under the
25	Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan and the

1	Survivor Benefit Plan, payment for career status bo-
2	nuses, payment of continuation pay under section
3	356 of title 37, concurrent receipts, combat-related
4	special compensation, and payments for medical care
5	of retired personnel and their dependents under chap-
6	ter 55 of title 10, \$1,210,840,000 for fiscal year
7	2025.".
8	SEC. 102. SHORESIDE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES
9	AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.
10	(a) Information Technology.—Of the amounts au-
11	thorized to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A) of title
12	14, United States Code—
13	(1) for fiscal year 2025, \$36,300,000 is author-
14	ized to modernize the Coast Guard's information tech-
15	nology systems, of which \$11,000,000 is authorized to
16	fund the acquisition, development, and implementa-
17	tion of a new credentialing system for the Merchant
18	Mariner credentialing program; and
19	(2) for fiscal year 2026, \$36,300,000 is author-
20	ized to modernize the Coast Guard's information tech-
21	nology systems.
22	(b) Shoreside Infrastructure.—Of the amounts
23	authorized to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A) of
24	title 14, United States Code—

1	(1) for fiscal year 2025, \$500,000,000 is author-
2	ized to fund maintenance, construction, and repairs
3	for Coast Guard shoreside infrastructure, of which—
4	(A) \$225,000,000 is authorized for the pur-
5	poses of improvements to facilities at the United
6	States Coast Guard Training Center Cape May
7	in Cape May, New Jersey;
8	(B) \$10,000,000 is authorized to fund the
9	creation of an infrastructure development plan
10	for the Coast Guard Academy in New London,
11	Connecticut;
12	(C) \$50,000,000 is authorized to complete
13	repairs and improvements of Chase Hall at the
14	Coast Guard Academy in New London, Con-
15	necticut, including remediation of asbestos, lead,
16	and mold and upgrading the electric outlet
17	availability and storage space in student rooms,
18	and making changes to house not more than 2
19	Officer Candidates in a room;
20	(D) $$70,000,000$ is authorized for the pur-
21	poses of planning, designing, and building a
22	floating drydock at the United States Coast
23	Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland;
24	(E) $$40,000,000$ is authorized for the pur-
25	poses of planning, designing, and building a

1	hangar to house, at a minimum, 2 HC-130 $J$
2	Super Hercules aircraft at Air Station Barbers
3	Point in Kapolei, Hawaii; and
4	(F) \$90,000,000 is authorized to fund wa-
5	terfront improvements of Coast Guard Base Se-
6	attle; and
7	(2) for fiscal year 2026, \$600,000,000 is author-
8	ized to fund maintenance, construction, and repairs
9	for Coast Guard shoreside infrastructure, of which—
10	(A) \$125,000,000 is authorized for the pur-
11	poses of improvements to facilities at the United
12	States Coast Guard Training Center Cape May
13	in Cape May, New Jersey;
14	(B) \$100,000,000 is authorized to execute
15	the infrastructure development plan for the Coast
16	Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut de-
17	veloped in paragraph (1)(C);
18	(C) \$100,000,000 is authorized for the pur-
19	poses of planning, designing, and building a
20	floating drydock at the United States Coast
21	Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland;
22	(D) \$40,000,000 is authorized for the pur-
23	poses of planning, designing, and building a
24	hangar to house at a minimum 2 HC-130J

1	Super Hercules aircraft at Air Station Barbers
2	Point in Kapolei, Hawaii; and
3	(E) \$90,000,000 is authorized to fund wa-
4	terfront improvements of Coast Guard Base Se-
5	attle.
6	SEC. 103. AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS FOR ACQUISITION OF
7	ADDITIONAL VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT.
8	(a) Fiscal Year 2025.—Of the amounts authorized
9	to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A) of title 14,
10	United States Code, for fiscal year 2025—
11	(1) \$138,500,000 is authorized for the acquisi-
12	tion or procurement of 1 missionized HC-130J Super
13	Hercules aircraft; and
14	(2) \$36,000,000 is authorized for the service life
15	extension program and any necessary upgrades of the
16	47-foot Motor Life Boat.
17	(b) Fiscal Year 2026.—Of the amounts authorized
18	to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A) of title 14,
19	United States Code, for fiscal year 2026—
20	(1) \$1,200,000,000 is authorized for the acquisi-
21	tion of a Polar Security Cutter;
22	(2) \$1,100,000,000 is authorized for the acquisi-
23	tion of 2 Offshore Patrol Cutters;

1	(3) \$138,500,000 is authorized for the acquisi-
2	tion or procurement of 1 missionized HC-130J Super
3	Hercules aircraft; and
4	(4) \$153,500,000 is authorized to outfit and as-
5	semble 5 MH-60T Jayhawk aircrafts.
6	SEC. 104. AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND
7	SERVICES.
8	(a) Fiscal Year 2025.—Of the amounts authorized
9	to be appropriated under section 4902(1)(A) of title 14,
10	United States Code, for fiscal year 2025—
11	(1) \$11,978,000 is authorized to fund additional
12	recruiting personnel and offices for the Coast Guard
13	Recruiting Command;
14	(2) \$9,000,000 is authorized to enhance Coast
15	Guard recruiting capabilities; and
16	(3) \$25,000,000 is authorized for the implemen-
17	tation of each directed action outlined in enclosure 1
18	of the memorandum of the Commandant titled "Com-
19	mandant's Directed Actions-Accountability and
20	Transparency", dated November 27, 2023.
21	(b) Fiscal Year 2026.—Of the amounts authorized
22	to be appropriated under section 4902(1)(A) of title 14,
23	United States Code, \$35,000,000 is authorized for the im-
24	plementation of each directed action outlined in enclosure
25	1 of the memorandum of the Commandant titled "Com-

1	mandant's Directed Actions-Accountability and Trans-
2	parency", dated November 27, 2023.
3	SEC. 105. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH
4	AND TRAINING.
5	Section 4904 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
6	ed—
7	(1) in subsection (a) by striking "fiscal years
8	2022 and 2023" and inserting "fiscal years 2025 and
9	2026"; and
10	(2) in subsection (b) by striking "fiscal years
11	2022 and 2023" and inserting "fiscal years 2025 and
12	2026".
13	TITLE II—COAST GUARD
14	Subtitle A—Organization and
15	Authorities
16	SEC. 201. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTE-
17	GRATORS.
18	Section 1105 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
19	ed by adding at the end the following:
20	"(c) Lead Systems Integrator Defined.—In this
21	section, the term 'lead systems integrator' has the meaning
22	given such term in section 805(c) of the National Defense
23	
	Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-

## 1 SEC. 202. MINOR CONSTRUCTION INCREASE.

2	Section 903(d)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is
3	amended by striking "\$1,500,000" and inserting
4	"\$2,000,000".
5	SEC. 203. TSUNAMI EVACUATION PLANS.
6	(a) Tsunami Evacuation Plans.—
7	(1) In general.—Not later than 1 year after
8	the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant,
9	in consultation with the Administrator of the Na-
10	tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and
11	the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
12	ment Agency, shall establish location specific tsunami
13	evacuation plans for each unit and sector of the Coast
14	Guard that has facilities, personnel, or assets located
15	within areas—
16	(A) designated by the Administrator of the
17	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
18	tion as high risk or very high risk of a United
19	States tsunami hazard; and
20	(B) that are located inside a tsunami inun-
21	dation zone.
22	(2) EVACUATION PLANS.—In establishing the
23	evacuation plans under paragraph (1), the Com-
24	mandant shall ensure that such plans—

1	(A) are included in the emergency action
2	plans for each unit or sector located inside of a
3	tsunami inundation zone;
4	(B) designate an evacuation route to an as-
5	sembly area located outside of a tsunami inun-
6	dation zone;
7	(C) include a map or diagram of all tsu-
8	nami inundation zone evacuation routes;
9	(D) include evacuation routes for all Coast
10	Guard personnel and dependents of such per-
11	sonnel living in Coast Guard housing;
12	(E) are feasible for all servicemembers and
13	dependents of such servicemembers present on
14	Coast Guard property or living in Coast Guard
15	provided housing;
16	(F) include procedures to begin evacuations
17	once a major seismic event is detected;
18	(G) include evacuation plans for air and
19	water assets that do not impinge on the safety of
20	human life;
21	(H) are able to be completely executed with-
22	in 15 minutes of detection of a seismic event or,
23	if not possible within 15 minutes, within a rea-
24	$sonable\ time frame;$

1	(I) are able to be completely executed by
2	servicemembers on foot from any location within
3	the tsunami inundation zone;
4	(I) are exercised biennially by each unit
5	and sector located in a tsunami inundation zone;
6	and
7	(K) are evaluated by leadership at each unit
8	and sector located in a tsunami inundation zone
9	annually.
10	(3) Consultation.—In establishing the evacu-
11	ation plans under paragraph (1), the Commandant
12	shall consult local governments.
13	(b) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date
14	of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to
15	the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
16	House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
17	Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and provide a
18	briefing to each such Committee on, a report on—
19	(1) the status of the implementation and feasi-
20	bility of the plans established under subsection $(a)(1)$ ;
21	(2) a risk evaluation and vulnerability assess-
22	ment of the infrastructure and assets located within
23	tsunami inundation zones;
24	(3) the need for vertical evacuation structures for
25	units and sectors in which an evacuation of a tsu-

- nami inundation zone cannot be completed on foot
  within 15 minutes of the detection of a seismic event;
  and
- 4 (4) whether the plans established under sub-5 section (a)(1) achieve the purpose to protect human 6 life and ensure the ability for the Coast Guard to pro-7 vide search and rescue operations following a tsunami 8 event in the area.
- 9 (c) Definitions.—In this section:
- 10 (1) SEISMIC EVENT.—The term "seismic event"
  11 means an earthquake, volcanic eruption, submarine
  12 landslide, coastal rockfall, or other event with the
  13 magnitude to cause a tsunami.
- 14 (2) TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONE.—The term
  15 "tsunami inundation zone" means an area of inland
  16 flooding modeled, predicted, or forecasted as a poten17 tial result of a tsunami or seismic event.
- 18 (3) VERTICAL EVACUATION STRUCTURE.—The
  19 term "vertical evacuation structure" means an ele20 vated structure above the tsunami inundation zone
  21 designated as a place of refuge from flood waters.
- 22 SEC. 204. SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAMS.
- 23 (a) In General.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of title
- 24 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
- 25 the following:

1	"§ 1138. Service life extension programs
2	"(a) In General.—Requirements for a Level 1 or
3	Level 2 acquisition project or program under sections 1131
4	through 1134 shall not apply to an acquisition by the Coast
5	Guard that is a service life extension program.
6	"(b) Service Life Extension Program Defined.—
7	In this section, the term 'service life extension program'
8	means a capital investment that is solely intended to extend
9	the service life and address obsolescence of components or
10	systems of a particular capability or asset.".
11	(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
12	11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting
13	after the item relating to section 1137 the following:
	"1138. Service life extension programs.".
14	SEC. 205. MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS IN COAST GUARD
15	SECTOR FOR PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN IS-
16	LANDS.
17	Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
18	of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee
19	on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
20	resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
21	Transportation of the Senate a report containing—
22	(1) an overview of the maritime domain aware-
23	ness in the area of responsibility of the Coast Guard
24	sector responsible for Puerto Rico and the United

25

 $States\ Virgin\ Islands,\ including —$ 

1	(A) the average volume of known maritime
2	traffic that transited the area during fiscal years
3	2020 through 2023;
4	(B) current sensor platforms deployed by
5	such sector to monitor illicit activity occurring
6	at sea in such area;
7	(C) the number of illicit activity incidents
8	at sea in such area that the sector responded to
9	during fiscal years 2020 through 2023;
10	(D) an estimate of the volume of traffic en-
11	gaged in illicit activity at sea in such area and
12	the type and description of any vessels used to
13	carry out illicit activities that such sector re-
14	sponded to during fiscal years 2020 through
15	2023; and
16	(E) the maritime domain awareness re-
17	quirements to effectively meet the mission of such
18	sector;
19	(2) a description of current actions taken by the
20	Coast Guard to partner with Federal, regional, State,
21	and local entities to meet the maritime domain
22	awareness needs of such area;
23	(3) a description of any gaps in maritime do-
24	main awareness within the area of responsibility of
25	such sector resulting from an inability to meet the en-

1	during maritime domain awareness requirements of
2	the sector or adequately respond to maritime disorder,
3	including illicit drug and migrant activity;
4	(4) an identification of current technology and
5	assets the Coast Guard has to mitigate the gaps iden-
6	tified in paragraph (3);
7	(5) an identification of capabilities needed to
8	mitigate such gaps, including any capabilities the
9	Coast Guard currently possesses that can be deployed
10	to the sector;
11	(6) an identification of technology and assets the
12	Coast Guard does not currently possess and are need-
13	ed to acquire in order to address such gaps; and
14	(7) an identification of any financial obstacles
15	that prevent the Coast Guard from deploying existing
16	commercially available sensor technology to address
17	such gaps.
18	SEC. 206. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON
19	MONTHLY DRUG AND MIGRANT INTERDIC-
20	TIONS.
21	(a) In General.—Section 11269 of the Don Young
22	Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-
23	263) is—

1	(1) transferred to appear at the end of sub-
2	chapter II of chapter 5 of title 14, United States
3	Code;
4	(2) redesignated as section 529; and
5	(3) amended—
6	(A) by striking the section enumerator and
7	heading and inserting the following:
8	"§ 529. Public availability of information on monthly
9	drug and migrant interdictions";
10	(B) by striking "Not later than" and insert-
11	ing the following:
12	"(a) In General.—Not later than";
13	(C) by inserting "drug and" before "mi-
14	grant interdictions"; and
15	(D) by adding at the end the following:
16	"(b) Contents.—In making information about inter-
17	dictions publicly available under subsection (a), the Com-
18	mandant shall include a description of the following:
19	"(1) The number of incidents in which drugs
20	were interdicted, the amount and type of drugs inter-
21	dicted, and the Coast Guard sectors and geographic
22	areas of responsibility in which such incidents oc-
23	curred.
24	"(2) The number of incidents in which migrants
25	were interdicted, the number of migrants interdicted,

1	and the Coast Guard sectors and geographic areas of
2	responsibility in which such incidents occurred.".
3	(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—
4	(1) The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United
5	States Code, is amended by inserting after the item
6	relating to section 528 the following:
	"529. Public availability of information on monthly drug and migrant interdictions.".
7	(2) The table of sections in section 11001(b) of
8	the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of
9	2022 (division K of Public Law 117–263) is amended
10	by striking the item relating to section 11269.
11	SEC. 207. REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF UNMANNED SYS-
12	TEMS CAPABILITIES OFFICE.
12 13	TEMS CAPABILITIES OFFICE.  (a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date
13	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date
13 14	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to
13 14 15	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
13 14 15 16	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
13 14 15 16	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that out-
113 114 115 116 117	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that outlines a plan for establishing an unmanned systems capa-
13 14 15 16 17 18	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that outlines a plan for establishing an unmanned systems capabilities office within the Coast Guard responsible for the ac-
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that outlines a plan for establishing an unmanned systems capabilities office within the Coast Guard responsible for the acquisition and development of unmanned system and

1	(b) Contents.—The report required under subsection
2	(a) shall include the following:
3	(1) A management strategy for the acquisition,
4	development, and deployment of unmanned system
5	and counter-unmanned system technologies.
6	(2) A service-wide coordination strategy to syn-
7	chronize and integrate efforts across the Coast Guard
8	in order to—
9	(A) support the primary duties of the Coast
10	Guard pursuant to section 102 of title 14,
11	United States Code; and
12	(B) pursue expanded research, development,
13	testing, and evaluation opportunities and fund-
14	ing to expand and accelerate identification and
15	transition of unmanned system and counter-un-
16	manned system technologies.
17	(3) The identification of contracting and acqui-
18	sition authorities needed to expedite the development
19	and deployment of unmanned system and counter-un-
20	manned system technologies.
21	(4) A detailed list of commercially available un-
22	manned system and counter-unmanned system tech-
23	nologies with capabilities determined to be useful for
24	the Coast Guard.

- (5) A cross-agency collaboration plan to engage with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and other relevant agencies to identify common requirements and opportunities to partner in acquiring, contracting, and sustaining unmanned system and counter-unmanned system capabilities.
  - (6) Opportunities to obtain and share unmanned system data from government and commercial sources to improve maritime domain awareness.
  - (7) The development of a concept of operations for a data ecosystem that supports and integrates unmanned system and counter-unmanned system technologies with key enablers, including enterprise communications networks, data storage and management, artificial intelligence and machine learning tools, and information sharing and dissemination capabilities.

### (c) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Counter-unmanned system" means a system or device capable of lawfully and safely disabling, disrupting, or seizing control of an unmanned system, including a counter-UAS system (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code).

- 1 (2) Unmanned system.—The term "unmanned 2 system" means an unmanned surface, undersea, or aircraft and associated elements (including commu-3 nication links and the components that control the 5 unmanned system) that are required for the operator 6 to operate the system safely and efficiently, including 7 an unmanned aircraft system (as such term is defined 8 in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code). SEC. 208. GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER. 10 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee 12 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and 14 Transportation of the Senate a strategy detailing how the 15 Coast Guard will complete design and construction of the Great Lakes icebreaker at least as capable as the Coast 16 Guard Cutter Mackinaw (WLBB-30) in not more than 3 years after funding is provided for such icebreaker. 18
- 19 SEC. 209. CONSIDERATION OF LIFE-CYCLE COST ESTIMATES
- 20 FOR ACQUISITION AND PROCUREMENT.
- 21 (a) In General.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of title
- 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at
- the end the following:

1	"§ 1139. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for
2	acquisition and procurement
3	"In carrying out the acquisition and procurement of
4	vessels and aircraft, the Secretary of the department in
5	which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the
6	Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall consider the life-
7	cycle cost estimates of vessels and aircraft, as applicable,
8	during the design and evaluation processes to the maximum
9	extent practicable.".
10	(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
11	11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting
12	after the item relating to section 1138 (as added by this
13	Act) the following:
	"1139. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procurement.".
14	SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN SUPPORT FOR
15	COAST GUARD ACADEMY FOUNDATIONS.
16	(a) In General.—Subchapter I of chapter 19 of title
17	14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
18	the following:
19	"§ 1907. Authorization of certain support for Coast
20	Guard Academy foundations
21	"(a) Authority.—Subject to subsection (b) and pur-
22	suant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the de-
23	partment in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Super-
24	intendent of the Coast Guard Academy may authorize a

1	covered foundation to use, on an unreimbursed basis, facili-
2	ties or equipment of the Coast Guard Academy.
3	"(b) Limitations.—Use of facilities or equipment
4	under subsection (a) may be provided only if such use has
5	been reviewed and approved by an attorney of the Coast
6	Guard and only if such use—
7	"(1) is without any liability of the United States
8	to the covered foundation;
9	"(2) does not affect the ability of any official or
10	employee of the Coast Guard, or any member of the
11	armed forces, to carry out any responsibility or duty
12	in a fair and objective manner;
13	"(3) does not compromise the integrity or ap-
14	pearance of integrity of any program of the Coast
15	Guard, or any individual involved in such a pro-
16	gram;
17	"(4) does not include the participation of any
18	cadet other than participation in an honor guard at
19	an event of the covered foundation; and
20	"(5) complies with any applicable ethics regula-
21	tions.
22	"(c) Briefing.—In any fiscal year during which the
23	Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy exercises the
24	authority under subsection (a), the Commandant of the
25	Coast Guard shall provide a briefing to the Committee on

- 1 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
- 3 Transportation of the Senate not later than the last day
- 4 of that fiscal year regarding the number of events or activi-
- 5 ties of a covered foundation supported by such exercise dur-
- 6 ing such fiscal year.
- 7 "(d) Covered Foundation Defined.—In this sec-
- 8 tion, the term 'covered foundation' means a charitable, edu-
- 9 cational, or civic nonprofit organization under section
- 10 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that the
- 11 Secretary concerned determines operates exclusively to sup-
- 12 port, with respect to a Service Academy, any of the fol-
- 13 *lowing*:
- 14 "(1) Recruiting.
- 15 "(2) Parent or alumni development.
- 16 "(3) Academic, leadership, or character develop-
- 17 ment.
- 18 "(4) Institutional development.
- 19 "(5) Athletics.".
- 20 (b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
- 21 19 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting
- 22 after the item relating to section 1906 the following:
  "1907. Authorization of certain support for Coast Guard Academy foundations.".
- 23 SEC. 211. NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM.
- 24 Section 316 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
- 25 *ed*—

1	(1) in subsection (b)—
2	(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "The Sec-
3	retary" and inserting "Except as provided in
4	paragraph (2), the Secretary"; and
5	(B) in paragraph (2) by striking "engineer-
6	ing and design of a Museum" and inserting "de-
7	sign of a Museum, and engineering, construction
8	administration, and quality assurance services of
9	a Museum'';
10	(2) by amending subsection (e)(2)(A) to read as
11	follows:
12	"(A) lease from the Association for Coast Guard
13	operations the Museum and properties owned by the
14	Association adjacent to the railroad tracks to which
15	the property on which the Museum is located are ad-
16	jacent; and"; and
17	(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
18	lows:
19	"(g) Services.—With respect to the services related
20	to the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Mu-
21	seum, the Commandant may—
22	"(1) solicit and accept services from nonprofit
23	entities, including the Association; and

1	"(2) enter into contracts or memorandums of
2	agreement with or make grants to the Association to
3	acquire such services.".
4	SEC. 212. REGULAR POLAR SECURITY CUTTER UPDATES.
5	(a) Report.—
6	(1) Report to congress.—Not later than 60
7	days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
8	mandant shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
9	tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
10	tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
11	Transportation of the Senate a report on the status
12	of acquisition of the first Polar Security Cutter.
13	(2) Elements.—The report under paragraph
14	(1) shall include—
15	(A) a detailed timeline for the acquisition
16	process of the first Polar Security Cutter, includ-
17	ing expected milestones and projected commis-
18	$sioning\ date;$
19	(B) an accounting of the previously appro-
20	priated funds spent to date on the Polar Secu-
21	rity Cutter Program, updated cost projections for
22	the first Polar Security Cutter, and projections
23	for when additional funds will be required;

1	(C) potential factors and risks that could
2	further delay or imperil the completion of the
3	first Polar Security Cutter; and
4	(D) a review of the acquisition of the first
5	Polar Security Cutter to date, including factors
6	that led to substantial cost overruns and delivery
7	delays.
8	(b) Briefings.—
9	(1) Provision to congress.—Not later than 60
10	days after the submission of the report under sub-
11	section (a), and not less frequently than every 60 days
12	thereafter, the Commandant shall provide to the Com-
13	mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
14	House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
15	merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
16	briefing on the status of the Polar Security Cutter ac-
17	quisition process.
18	(2) Timeline.—The briefings under paragraph
19	(1) shall occur after any key milestone in the Polar
20	Security Cutter acquisition process, but not less fre-
21	quently than every 60 days.
22	(3) Elements.—Each briefing under paragraph
23	(1) shall include—

1	(A) a summary of acquisition progress since
2	the most recent previous briefing conducted pur-
3	suant to paragraph (1);
4	(B) an updated timeline and budget esti-
5	mate for acquisition and building of pending
6	Polar Security Cutters; and
7	(C) an explanation of any delays or addi-
8	tional costs incurred in the acquisition progress.
9	(c) Notifications.—In addition to the briefings re-
10	quired under subsection (b), the Commandant shall notify
11	the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
12	House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
13	Science, and Transportation of the Senate within 3 business
14	days of any significant change to the scope or funding level
15	of the Polar Security Cutter acquisition strategy of such
16	change.
17	SEC. 213. TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.
18	Section 319(b)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is
19	amended by striking "2" and inserting "4".
20	SEC. 214. REPORT ON CONDITION OF MISSOURI RIVER
21	DAYBOARDS.
22	(a) Provision to Congress.—Not later than 180
23	days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
24	mandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
25	and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the

- 1 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
- 2 the Senate a report on the condition of dayboards and the
- 3 placement of buoys on the Missouri River.
- 4 (b) Elements.—The report under paragraph (1) shall
- 5 include—
- 6 (1) a list of the most recent date on which each
- 7 dayboard and buoy was serviced by the Coast Guard;
- 8 (2) an overview of the plan of the Coast Guard
- 9 to systematically service each dayboard and buoy on
- 10 the Missouri River; and
- 11 (3) assigned points of contact.
- 12 SEC. 215. DELEGATION OF PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY
- 13 AUTHORITIES IN ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY.
- 14 Section 70032 of title 46, United States Code, is
- 15 amended to read as follows:
- 16 "§ 70032. Saint Lawrence Seaway
- 17 "(a) In General.—Except as provided in subsection
- 18 (b), the authority granted to the Secretary under sections
- 19 70001, 70002, 70003, 70004, and 70011 may not be dele-
- 20 gated with respect to the Saint Lawrence Seaway to any
- 21 agency other than the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway
- 22 Development Corporation. Any other authority granted the
- 23 Secretary under subchapters I through III and this sub-
- 24 chapter shall be delegated by the Secretary to the Great
- 25 Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to

1	the extent the Secretary determines such delegation is nec-
2	essary for the proper operation of the Saint Lawrence Sea-
3	way.
4	"(b) Exception.—The Secretary of the department in
5	which the Coast Guard is operating, after consultation with
6	the Secretary of Transportation, or the head of an agency
7	to which the Secretary has delegated the authorities in sub-
8	section (a), may—
9	"(1) issue and enforce special orders in accord-
10	ance with section 70002;
11	"(2) establish water or waterfront safety zones,
12	or other measures, for limited, controlled, or condi-
13	tional access and activity when necessary for the pro-
14	tection of any vessel structure, waters, or shore area,
15	as permitted in section 70011(b)(2); and
16	"(3) take actions for port, harbor, and coastal fa-
17	cility security in accordance with section 70116.".
18	SEC. 216. STUDY ON COAST GUARD MISSIONS.
19	(a) Study.—
20	(1) In general.—Not later than 90 days after
21	the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant
22	shall seek to enter into an agreement with a federally
23	funded research and development center with relevant
24	expertise under which such center shall conduct an as-
25	sessment of the operational capabilities and ability of

1	the Coast Guard to conduct the primary duties of the
2	Coast Guard under section 102 of title 14, United
3	States Code, and missions under section 888 of the
4	Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468).
5	(2) Elements.—In carrying out the assessment
6	required under paragraph (1), the federally funded re-
7	search and development center selected under such
8	subsection shall, with respect to the primary duties
9	and missions described in paragraph (1), include the
10	following:
11	(A) An analysis of the extent to which the
12	Coast Guard is able to effectively carry out such
13	duties and missions.
14	(B) Recommendations for the Coast Guard
15	to more effectively carry out such duties and
16	missions, in light of manpower and asset con-
17	straints.
18	(C) Recommendations of which such duties
19	and missions should be transferred to other de-
20	partments or eliminated in light of the man-
21	power and asset constraints of the Coast Guard.
22	(D) An analysis of the benefits and draw-

backs of transferring the Coast Guard or any of

the duties and missions of the Coast Guard to

23

24

1	other appropriate Federal departments or inde-
2	pendent agencies.
3	(b) Assessment to Commandant.—Not later than 1
4	year after the date on which Commandant enters into an
5	agreement under section (a), the federally funded research
6	and development center selected under such subsection shall
7	submit to the Commandant the assessment required under
8	subsection (a).
9	(c) Report to Congress.—
10	(1) In general.—Not later than 90 days after
11	receipt of the assessment under subsection (b), the
12	Commandant shall submit to the Committee on
13	Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
14	Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
15	Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
16	that includes recommendations included in the assess-
17	ment to strengthen the ability of the Coast Guard to
18	carry out such duties and missions.
19	(2) Elements.—The report required under
20	paragraph (1) shall include the following:
21	(A) The assessment received by the Com-
22	mandant under subsection (b).
23	(B) For each recommendation included in
24	the such assessment—

1	(i) an assessment by the Commandant
2	of the feasibility and advisability of imple-
3	menting such recommendation; and
4	(ii) if the Commandant of the Coast
5	Guard considers the implementation of such
6	recommendation feasible and advisable, a
7	description of the actions taken, or to be
8	taken, to implement such recommendation.
9	SEC. 217. ADDITIONAL PRIBILOF ISLAND TRANSITION COM-
10	PLETION ACTIONS.
11	Section 11221 of the Don Young Coast Guard Author-
12	ization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended by
13	adding at the end the following:
14	"(e) Additional Reports on Status of Use of Fa-
15	CILITIES AND HELICOPTER BASING.—Beginning with the
16	first quarterly report required under subsection (a) sub-
17	mitted after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Au-
18	thorization Act of 2024, the Secretary shall include in each
19	such report—
20	"(1) the status of the use of recently renovated
21	Coast Guard housing facilities, food preparation fa-
22	cilities, and maintenance and repair facilities on St.
23	Paul Island, Alaska, including a projected date for
24	full use and occupancy of such facilities in support
25	of Coast Guard missions in the Bering Sea; and

1	"(2) a detailed plan for the acquisition and con-
2	struction of a hangar in close proximity to existing
3	St. Paul airport facilities to house 1 or more Coast
4	Guard helicopters for the prosecution of Coast Guard
5	operational missions, including plans for the use of
6	land needed for such hangar.".
7	Subtitle B—Personnel
8	SEC. 221. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR CIVILIAN FACULTY
9	AT THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY.
10	Section 1941 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
11	ed—
12	(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection
13	(c); and
14	(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
15	lowing:
16	"(b) The Secretary may, without regard to the ap-
17	pointment requirements of title 5, United States Code, non-
18	competitively appoint a highly qualified candidate to a fac-
19	ulty position in the excepted service.".
20	SEC. 222. TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM AUTHORIZED END
21	STRENGTH FOR COAST GUARD ENLISTED
22	MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY.
23	Notwithstanding section 517 of title 10, United States
24	Code, and until October 1, 2027, the authorized end strength
25	for enlisted members on active duty (other than for train-

1	ing) in the Coast Guard in pay grades E-8 and E-9 may
2	be more than 3.0 percent and 1.25 percent respectively of
3	the number of enlisted members of the Coast Guard who
4	are on active duty other than for training.
5	SEC. 223. ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE GUIDANCE AND CONSID-
6	ERATIONS FOR RESERVE SELECTION
7	BOARDS.
8	Section 3740(f) of title 14, United States Code, is
9	amended by striking "section 2117" and inserting "sections
10	2115 and 2117".
11	SEC. 224. PARENTAL LEAVE PARITY FOR MEMBERS OF CER-
12	TAIN RESERVE COMPONENTS OF COAST
13	GUARD.
14	(a) Parental Leave.—
15	(1) In general.—Subchapter I of chapter 29 of
16	title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding
17	at the end the following:
18	"§ 2907. Parental leave for members of certain reserve
19	components of Coast Guard
20	"(a)(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary,
21	a member of the reserve component of the Coast Guard de-
22	scribed in subsection (b) is allowed parental leave for a du-
23	ration of up to 12 inactive-duty training periods, under
24	section 206 of title 37, during the one-year period beginning

 $25 \ \ \textit{after the following events:}$ 

"(A) the birth or adoption of a child of the mem-1 2 ber and to care for such child; or 3 "(B) the placement of a minor child with the 4 member for adoption or long-term foster care. "(2)(A) The Secretary of the department in which the 5 6 Coast Guard is operating, may authorize leave described under subparagraph (A) to be taken after the one-year pe-8 riod described in subparagraph (A) in the case of a member described in subsection (b) who, except for this subparagraph, would lose unused parental leave at the end of the 10 one-year period described in subparagraph (A) as a result of---12 "(i) operational requirements; 13 14 "(ii) professional military education obligations: 15 or"(iii) other circumstances that the Secretary de-16 17 termines reasonable and appropriate. 18 "(B) The regulations prescribed under clause (i) shall 19 require that any leave authorized to be taken after the one-20 year period described in subparagraph (A) shall be taken 21 within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Secretary in which the department is operating, after cessation of the circumstances warranting the extended dead-24 *line*.

1	"(b) A member described in this subsection is a mem-
2	ber of the Coast Guard who is a member of—
3	"(1) the selected reserve who is entitled to com-
4	pensation under section 206 of title 37; or
5	"(2) the individual ready reserve who is entitled
6	to compensation under section 206 of title 37 when
7	attending or participating in a sufficient number of
8	periods of inactive-duty training during a year to
9	count the year as a qualifying year of creditable serv-
10	ice toward eligibility for retired pay.".
11	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
12	chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, is amended
13	by inserting after the item relating to section 2906 the
14	following:
	"2907. Parental leave for members of certain reserve components of Coast Guard.".
15	(b) Compensation.—Section 206(a)(4) of title 37,
16	United States Code, is amended by inserting before the pe-
17	riod at the end "or parental leave under section 2907 of
18	title 14".
19	SEC. 225. AUTHORIZATION FOR MATERNITY UNIFORM AL-
20	LOWANCE FOR OFFICERS.
21	Section 2708 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
22	ed by adding at the end the following:
23	"(c) The Coast Guard may provide a cash allowance
24	in such amount as the Secretary of the department in which
25	the Coast Guard is operating shall determine in regulations

1	to be paid to pregnant officer personnel for the purchase
2	of maternity-related uniform items if such uniform items
3	are not so furnished to the member.".
4	SEC. 226. REPORT ON GAO RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOUS-
5	ING PROGRAM.
6	Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
7	this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee
8	on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
9	resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
10	Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of the
11	implementation of the recommendations contained in the
12	report of the Government Accountability Office titled "Coast
13	Guard: Better Feedback Collection and Information Could
14	Enhance Housing Program", and issued February 5, 2024
15	(GAO-24-106388).
16	TITLE III—SHIPPING AND
17	<i>NAVIGATION</i>
18	$Subtitle\ A-Vessel\ Operations$
19	SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.
20	In this subtitle:
21	(1) Outer continental shelf.—The term
22	"outer Continental Shelf" has the meaning given such
23	term in section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf
24	Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331).

1 (2) RULING LETTER.—The term "ruling letter" 2 means any ruling letter or headquarters ruling letter 3 relating to the enforcement of chapters 121 and 551 4 of title 46, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Jones Act"), issued by the Commissioner of 5 U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to sec-6 7 tions 502(a) or 625 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 8 U.S.C. 1502(a) and 1625). 9 (3) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means 10 the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through 11 the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Pro-12 tection. 13 SEC. 302. NOTIFICATION. 14 (a) Advance Notification Required.—Prior to en-15 gaging in any activity or operations on the outer Continental Shelf, the operator of a foreign vessel used in such 16 activity or operations shall file with the Secretary a notification describing all activities and operations to be per-18 formed on the outer Continental Shelf and an identification of applicable ruling letters issued by the Secretary that have approved the use of a foreign vessel in a substantially similar activity or operation. 23 (b) Publication of Notices.— 24 (1) Publication.—The Secretary shall publish 25 a notification under subsection (a) in the Customs

1	Bulletin and Decisions within 14 days of receipt of
2	such notification.
3	(2) Confidential information.—The Sec-
4	retary shall redact any information exempt from dis-
5	closure under section 552 of title 5, United States
6	Code, in a notification published under paragraph
7	(1).
8	SEC. 303. PUBLICATION OF FINES AND PENALTIES.
9	(a) In General.—Section 55102 of title 46, United
10	States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
11	"(d) Publication of Penalty.—
12	"(1) In general.—Not later than 14 days after
13	the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or a penalty, in-
14	cluding a settlement, under subsection (c), the Sec-
15	retary of Homeland Security shall publish such pre-
16	penalty notice or a notification of such penalty in the
17	Customs Bulletin and Decisions to the party im-
18	pacted by the penalty.
19	"(2) Contents.—A pre-penalty notice or pen-
20	alty notification published under paragraph (1) shall
21	include—
22	"(A) the name and the International Mari-
23	time Organization identification number of the
24	vessel that is the subject of the penalty;

1	"(B) the name of the owner of the vessel
2	that is the subject of the penalty;
3	"(C) the amount of the fine or value of mer-
4	chandise seized; and
5	"(D) a summary of the alleged misconduct
6	and justification for imposing a penalty.".
7	(b) Rulemaking.—Not later than 90 days after the
8	date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue such
9	regulations as are necessary to implement the amendments
10	made by subsection (a), including—
11	(1) regulations regarding the information to be
12	contained in a penalty notification under section
13	55102(d) of title 46, United States Code (as amended
14	by such subsection); and
15	(2) any changes to existing regulations relating
16	to penalties issued by the Secretary.
17	Subtitle B—Merchant Mariner
18	Credentialing
19	SEC. 311. REVISING MERCHANT MARINER DECK TRAINING
20	REQUIREMENTS.
21	(a) General Definitions.—Section 2101 of title 46,
22	United States Code, is amended—
23	(1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through
24	(56) as paragraphs (21) through (57), respectively;
25	and

```
(2) by inserting after paragraph (19) the fol-
 1
 2
        lowing:
 3
             "(20) 'merchant mariner credential' means a
 4
        merchant mariner license, certificate, or document
 5
        that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursuant to
 6
        this title.".
 7
        (b) Examinations.—Section 7116 of title 46, United
 8
    States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c).
 9
        (c) Merchant Mariners Documents.—
10
             (1) General requirements.—Section 7306 of
11
        title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as
12
        follows:
    "§ 7306. General requirements and classifications for
13
14
                members of deck departments
15
        "(a) In General.—The Secretary may issue a mer-
    chant mariner credential, to members of the deck depart-
16
17
    ment in the following classes:
18
             "(1) Able Seaman-Unlimited.
19
             "(2) Able Seaman-Limited.
20
             "(3) Able Seaman-Special.
21
             "(4) Able Seaman-Offshore Supply Vessels.
22
             "(5) Able Seaman-Sail.
             "(6) Able Seaman-Fishing Industry.
23
             "(7) Ordinary Seaman.
24
```

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1
         "(b) Classification of Credentials.—The Sec-
    retary may classify the merchant mariner credential issued
    under subsection (a) based on—
 3
              "(1) the tonnage and means of propulsion of ves-
 4
 5
         sels;
 6
              "(2) the waters on which vessels are to be oper-
 7
         ated: or
 8
              "(3) other appropriate standards.
 9
         "(c) Considerations.—In issuing the credential
    under subsection (a), the Secretary may consider the fol-
10
    lowing qualifications of the merchant mariner:
12
              "(1) Age.
              "(2) Character.
13
14
              "(3) Habits of life.
              "(4) Experience.
15
              "(5) Professional qualifications demonstrated by
16
17
         satisfactory completion of applicable examinations or
18
         other educational requirements.
19
              "(6) Physical condition, including sight and
20
         hearing.
21
              "(7) Other requirements established by the Sec-
22
         retary, including career patterns and service appro-
23
         priate to the particular service, industry, or job func-
24
         tions the individual is engaged.".
```

1	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
2	chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
3	by striking the item relating to section 7306 and in-
4	serting the following:
	"7306. General requirements and classifications for members of deck departments.".
5	(3) General requirements for members of
6	Engine departments.—Section 7313(b) of title 46,
7	United States Code, is amended by striking "and coal
8	passer".
9	(4) Training.—Section 7315 of title 46, United
10	States Code, is amended—
11	(A) by amending subsection (a) to read as
12	follows:
13	"(a) Graduation from a nautical school program ap-
14	proved by the Secretary may be substituted for the service
15	requirements under sections 7307–7312 and 7314.";
16	(B) in subsection (b)—
17	(i) by striking "one-third" and insert-
18	ing "one-half"; and
19	(ii) by striking "7307–7311 of this
20	title" and inserting "7307-7312 and 7314";
21	and
22	(C) by striking subsection (c).
23	(d) Reduction of Lengths of Certain Periods of
24	Service.—

1	(1) In General.—Title 46, United States Code,
2	is amended as follows:
3	(A) Section 7307 is amended by striking "3
4	years" and inserting "18 months".
5	(B) Section 7308 is amended by striking
6	"18 months" and inserting "12 months".
7	(C) Section 7309 is amended by striking
8	"12 months" and inserting "6 months".
9	(2) Temporary reduction of lengths of
10	CERTAIN PERIODS OF SERVICE.—Section 3534(j) of
11	the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
12	Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is repealed.
13	(e) Merchant Mariner Credentials.—Section
14	7510 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking
15	subsection (d).
16	(f) Implementation.—The Secretary of the depart-
17	ment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall imple-
18	ment the amended requirements under subsections (c)(3),
19	(c)(4), and (c)(6) of this section without regard to chapters
20	5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, and Executive Orders
21	12866 and 13563 (5 U.S.C. 601 note).
22	SEC. 312. AMENDMENTS.
23	(a) In General.—The heading for subtitle II of title
24	46, United States Code, is amended by striking "Seamen"
)5	and inserting "Seafarer"

1	(b) Merchant Mariner Credentials.—The head-
2	ing for part E of subtitle II of title 46, United States Code,
3	is amended by striking "MERCHANT SEAMEN LI-
4	CENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND DOCUMENTS" and in-
5	serting "MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS".
6	(c) Able Seafarers—Unlimited.—
7	(1) In General.—The section heading for sec-
8	tion 7307 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
9	by striking "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
10	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
11	chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further
12	amended in the item relating to section 7307 by strik-
13	ing "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
14	(d) Able Seamen—Limited.—
15	(1) In General.—The section heading for sec-
16	tion 7308 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
17	by striking "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
18	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
19	chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further
20	amended in the item relating to section 7308 by strik-
21	ing "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
22	(e) Able Seafarers—Special.—
23	(1) In General.—The section heading for sec-
24	tion 7309 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
25	by striking "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".

1	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
2	chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further
3	amended in the item relating to section 7309 by strik-
4	ing "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
5	(f) Able Seafarers—Offshore Supply Ves-
6	SELS.—
7	(1) In General.—The section heading for sec-
8	tion 7310 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
9	by striking "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
10	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
11	chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further
12	amended in the item relating to section 7310 by strik-
13	ing "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
14	(g) Able Seafarers—Sail.—
15	(1) In General.—The section heading for sec-
16	tion 7311 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
17	by striking "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
18	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
19	chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further
20	amended in the item relating to section 7311 by strik-
21	ing "seamen" and inserting "seafarers".
22	(h) Able Seamen—Fishing Industry.—
23	(1) In General.—The section heading for sec-
24	tion 7311a of title 46, United States Code, is amend-

ed by striking "seamen" and inserting "sea-1 2 farers". (2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for 3 4 chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further 5 amended in the item relating to section 7311a by 6 striking "seamen" and inserting "seafarers". 7 (i) Parts E and F.—Parts E and F of subtitle II 8 of title 46, United States Code, is amended— 9 (1) by striking "seaman" and inserting "seafarer" each place it appears; and 10 11 (2) by striking "seamen" and inserting "sea-12 farers" each place it appears. 13 (j) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The analysis for subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, is amended in 14 15 the item relating to part E by striking "MERCHANT SEA-CERTIFICATES, AND MENLICENSES, DOCU-MENTS" and inserting "MERCHANT MARINER CRE-DENTIALS". 18 19 (2) The analysis of subtitles at the beginning of title 46, United States Code, is amended in the item relating to subtitle II by striking "SEAMEN" and inserting "SEA-

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22 FARER"

1	SEC. 313. RENEWAL OF MERCHANT MARINER LICENSES
2	AND DOCUMENTS.
3	Section 7507 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
4	ed by adding at the end the following:
5	"(d) Renewal.—With respect to any renewal of an
6	active merchant mariner credential issued under this part
7	that is not an extension under subsection (a) or (b), such
8	credential shall begin the day after the expiration of the
9	active credential of the credential holder.".
10	SEC. 314. MERCHANT SEAMEN LICENSES, CERTIFICATES,
11	AND DOCUMENTS; MANNING OF VESSELS.
12	(a) Citizenship or Noncitizen Nationality.—
13	(1) In General.—Section 7102 of title 46,
14	United States Code, is amended—
15	(A) in the section heading by inserting "or
16	noncitizen nationality" after "Citizen-
17	ship"; and
18	(B) by inserting "or noncitizen nationals
19	(as such term is described in section 308 of the
20	Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
21	1408))" after "citizens".
22	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
23	chapter 71 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
24	by striking the item relating to section 7102 and in-
25	serting the following:

<sup>&</sup>quot;7102. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality.".

1	(b) Citizenship or Noncitizen Nationality Nota-
2	TION ON MERCHANT MARINERS' DOCUMENTS.—
3	(1) In General.—Section 7304 of title 46,
4	United States Code, is amended—
5	(A) in the section heading by inserting "or
6	noncitizen nationality" after "Citizen-
7	ship"; and
8	(B) by inserting "or noncitizen national (as
9	such term is described in section 308 of the Im-
10	migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
11	1408))" after "citizen".
12	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
13	chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
14	by striking the item relating to section 7304 and in-
15	serting the following:
	"7304. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality notation on merchant mariners' documents.".
16	(c) Citizenship or Noncitizen Nationality.—
17	(1) In General.—Section 8103 of title 46,
18	United States Code, is amended—
19	(A) in the section heading by inserting "or
20	noncitizen nationality" after "Citizen-
21	ship";
22	(B) in subsection (a) by inserting "or non-
23	citizen national" after "citizen";
24	(C) in subsection (b)—

1	(i) in paragraph $(1)(A)(i)$ by inserting
2	"or noncitizen national" after "citizen";
3	(ii) in paragraph (3) by inserting "or
4	noncitizen nationality" after "citizenship";
5	and
6	(iii) in paragraph (3)(C) by inserting
7	"or noncitizen nationals" after "citizens";
8	(D) in subsection (c) by inserting "or non-
9	citizen nationals" after "citizens";
10	(E) in subsection (d)—
11	(i) in paragraph (1) by inserting "or
12	noncitizen nationals" after "citizens"; and
13	(ii) in paragraph (2) by inserting "or
14	noncitizen national" after "citizen" each
15	place it appears;
16	(F) in subsection (e) by inserting "or non-
17	citizen national" after "citizen" each place it
18	appears;
19	(G) in subsection $(i)(1)(A)$ by inserting "or
20	noncitizen national" after "citizen";
21	(H) in subsection $(k)(1)(A)$ by inserting "or
22	noncitizen national" after "citizen"; and
23	(I) by adding at the end the following:
24	"(l) Noncitizen National Defined.—In this sec-
25	tion, the term 'noncitizen national' means an individual

1	described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nation-
2	ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408).".
3	(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for
4	chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
5	by striking the item relating to section 8103 and in-
6	serting the following:
	"8103. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality and Navy Reserve requirements.".
7	(d) Command of Documented Vessels.—Section
8	12131(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by
9	inserting "or noncitizen national (as such term is described
10	in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
11	U.S.C. 1408))" after "citizen".
12	(e) Invalidation of Certificates of Documenta-
13	TION.—Section 12135(2) of title 46, United States Code, is
14	amended by inserting "or noncitizen national (as such term
15	is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nation-
16	ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))" after "citizen".
17	Subtitle C—Vessel Safety
18	SEC. 321. GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OPERATIONS OF A VESSEL
19	Section 2302(b) of title 46, United States Code, is
20	amended to read as follows:
21	"(b) Grossly Negligent Operation.—
22	"(1) Misdemeanor.—A person operating a ves-
23	sel in a grossly negligent manner that endangers the

life, limb, or property of a person commits a class A

misdemean or.

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1	"(2) Felony.—A person operating a vessel in a
2	grossly negligent manner that results in serious bodily
3	injury, as defined in section 1365(h)(3) of title 18—
4	"(A) commits a class E felony; and
5	"(B) may be assessed a civil penalty of not
6	more than \$35,000.".
7	SEC. 322. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR SECURITY
8	RISKS.
9	(a) Security Risk.—Section 7702(d)(1) of title 46,
10	United States Code, is amended—
11	(1) in subparagraph (B) by redesignating
12	clauses (i) through (iv) as subclauses (I) through (IV),
13	respectively (and by conforming the margins accord-
14	ingly);
15	(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B)
16	as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively (and by con-
17	forming the margins accordingly);
18	(3) by striking "an individual if—" and insert-
19	ing the following: "an individual—
20	"(A) if—";
21	(4) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(IV), as so redesig-
22	nated, by striking the period at the end and inserting
23	"; or"; and
24	(5) by adding at the end the following:

1	"(B) if there is probable cause to believe that the
2	individual has violated company policy and is a se-
3	curity risk that poses a threat to other individuals on
4	the vessel.".
5	(b) Technical Amendment.—Section 2101(47)(B) of
6	title 46, United States Code (as so redesignated), is amend-
7	ed by striking "; and" and inserting "; or".
8	SEC. 323. REQUIREMENTS FOR DUKW AMPHIBIOUS PAS-
9	SENGER VESSELS.
10	Section 11502 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense
11	Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–
12	263) is amended—
13	(1) in the section header by striking "DUKW
14	AMPHIBIOUS PASSENGER VESSELS" and insert-
15	ing "COMMERCIAL AMPHIBIOUS SMALL PAS-
16	SENGER VESSELS'';
17	(2) by striking "DUKW amphibious passenger
18	vessel" each place it appears and inserting "commer-
19	cial amphibious small passenger vessel";
20	(3) by striking "DUKW amphibious passenger
21	vessels" each place it appears and inserting "commer-
22	cial amphibious small passenger vessels";
23	(4) in subsection (h)—
24	(A) by striking "Definitions" and all that
25	follows through "The term 'appropriate congres-

1	sional committees'" and inserting "APPRO-
2	PRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
3	FINED.—The term 'appropriate congressional
4	committees'"; and
5	(B) by striking paragraph (2); and
6	(5) by adding at the end the following:
7	"(i) Application.—This section shall apply to am-
8	phibious vessels operating as a small passenger vessel in
9	waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as
10	such term is defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Fed-
11	eral Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of
12	the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024).".
13	SEC. 324. RISK BASED EXAMINATION OF TANK VESSELS.
14	Section 3714 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
15	ed—
16	(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "The Sec-
17	retary" and inserting "Except as provided in sub-
18	section (c), the Secretary";
19	(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection
20	(d); and
21	(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
22	lowing:
23	"(c) Risk-based Examination.—
24	"(1) In general.—With respect to examinations
25	of foreign-flagged vessels to which this chapter applies,

1	the Secretary may adopt a risk-based examination
2	schedule to which such vessels shall be examined and
3	the frequency with which the examinations occur.
4	"(2) Restriction.—The Secretary may not
5	adopt a risk-based examination schedule under para-
6	graph (1) until the Secretary has—
7	"(A) received and reviewed the study by the
8	National Academies required under section
9	8254(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry Na-
10	tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
11	2021 (Public Law 116–283);
12	"(B) conducted the assessment recommended
13	in the report of the Government Accountability
14	Office submitted under section 8254(a) of such
15	Act;
16	"(C) concluded through such assessment that
17	a risk-based examination schedule provides not
18	less than the level of safety provided by the an-
19	nual examinations required under subsection
20	(a)(1); and
21	"(D) provided the results of such assessment
22	to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
23	structure of the House of Representatives and the
24	Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
25	tation of the Senate.".

# 1 SEC. 325. PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY. 2 (a) Waterfront Safety.—Section 70011(a) of title 3 46. United States Code, is amended— 4 (1) in paragraph (1) by inserting ", including 5 damage or destruction resulting from cyber incidents, 6 transnational organized crime, or foreign state 7 threats" after "adjacent to such waters"; and 8 (2) in paragraph (2) by inserting "or harm re-9 sulting from cyber incidents, transnational organized 10 crime, or foreign state threats" after "loss". 11 (b) Regulation of Anchorage and Movement of Vessels During National Emergency.—Section 70051 13 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting "or cyber incidents, or transnational organized crime, or foreign state threats," after "threatened war, or invasion, or insurrection, or subversive activity,". 17 (c) Facility Visit by State Sponsor of Ter-RORISM.—Section 70011(b) of title 46, United States Code, 19 is amended— 20 (1) in paragraph (3) by striking "and" at the 21 end; 22 (2) in paragraph (4) by striking the period at 23 the end and inserting "; and"; and 24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) prohibiting a representative of a govern-

ment of country that the Secretary of State has deter-

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1	mined has repeatedly provided support for acts of
2	international terrorism under section 620A of the
3	Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371) from
4	visiting a facility for which a facility security plan
5	is required under section $70103(c)$ .".
6	SEC. 326. STUDY ON BERING STRAIT VESSEL TRAFFIC PRO-
7	JECTIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE POS-
8	TURE AT THE PORT OF POINT SPENCER,
9	ALASKA.
10	(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the
11	date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall seek
12	to enter into an agreement with the National Academies
13	of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, under which the
14	Marine Board of the Transportation Research Board (in
15	this section referred to as the "Board") shall conduct a
16	study to—
17	(1) analyze commercial vessel traffic that tran-
18	sits through the Bering Strait and projections for the
19	growth of such traffic during the 10-year period be-
20	ginning after such date of enactment; and
21	(2) assess the adequacy of emergency response ca-
22	pabilities and infrastructure at the Port of Point
23	Spencer, Alaska, to address navigation safety risks
24	and geographic challenges necessary to conduct emer-

1	gency maritime response operations in the Arctic en-
2	vironment.
3	(b) Elements.—The study required under subsection
4	(a) shall include the following:
5	(1) An analysis of the volume and types of do-
6	mestic and international commercial vessel traffic
7	through the Bering Strait and the projected growth of
8	such traffic, including a summary of—
9	(A) the sizes, ages, and flag states of vessels;
10	and
11	(B) the oil and product tankers that are—
12	(i) in transit to or from Russia or
13	China; or
14	(ii) owned or operated by a Russian or
15	Chinese entity.
16	(2) An assessment of the state and adequacy of
17	vessel traffic services and oil spill and emergency re-
18	sponse capabilities in the vicinity of the Bering
19	Strait, including its approaches.
20	(3) A risk assessment of the projected growth in
21	commercial vessel traffic in the Bering Strait and
22	higher probability of increased frequency in the num-
23	ber of maritime accidents, including spill events, and
24	the potential impacts to the Arctic maritime environ-

1	ment and Native Alaskan village communities in the
2	vicinity of the Bering Strait.
3	(4) An evaluation of the ability of the Port of
4	Point Spencer, Alaska, to serve as a port of refuge
5	and as a staging, logistics, and operations center to
6	conduct and support maritime emergency and spill
7	response activities.
8	(5) Recommendations for practical actions that
9	can be taken by the Congress, Federal agencies, the
10	State of Alaska, vessel carriers and operators, the ma-
11	rine salvage and emergency response industry, and
12	other relevant stakeholders to mitigate risks, upgrade
13	infrastructure, and improve the posture of the Port of
14	Point Spencer, Alaska, to function as a strategic stag-
15	ing and logistics center for maritime emergency and
16	spill response operations in the Bering Strait region.
17	(c) Consultation.—In conducting the study required
18	under subsection (a), the Board shall consult with—
19	(1) the Department of Transportation;
20	(2) the Corps of Engineers;
21	(3) the National Transportation Safety Board;
22	(4) relevant ministries of the government of Can-
23	ada;
24	(5) the Port Coordination Council for the Port of
25	Point Spencer: and

1 (6) non-government entities with relevant exper-2 tise in monitoring and characterizing vessel traffic in the Arctic. 3 4 (d) Report.—Not later than 1 year after initiating the study under subsection (a), the Board shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, 8 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the findings and recommendations of the study. 10 (e) Definitions.—In this section: 11 (1) Arctic.—The term "Arctic" has the mean-12 ing given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Re-13 search and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111). 14 (2) Port coordination council for the 15 PORT OF POINT SPENCER.—The term "Port Coordina-16 tion Council for the Port of Point Spencer" means the 17 Council established under section 541 of the Coast 18 Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-19 120). 20 SEC. 327. UNDERWATER INSPECTIONS BRIEF. 21 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, or a designated individual, shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-

merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the

- 1 underwater inspection in lieu of drydock program estab-
- 2 lished under section 176.615 of title 46, Code of Federal
- 3 Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
- 4 *Act*).

### 5 SEC. 328. ST. LUCIE RIVER RAILROAD BRIDGE.

- 6 Regarding Docket Number USCG-2022-0222, before
- 7 adopting a final rule, the Commandant shall conduct an
- 8 independent boat traffic study at mile 7.4 of the St. Lucie
- 9 River.

## 10 SEC. 329. RULEMAKING REGARDING PORT ACCESS ROUTES.

- Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
- 12 of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the
- 13 Coast Guard is operating shall issue a final rule for the
- 14 Atlantic Coast Port Route Access Study for which an Ad-
- 15 vanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled "Shipping
- 16 Safety Fairways Along the Atlantic Coast" was issued on
- 17 June 19, 2020.

#### 18 SEC. 330. ARTICULATED TUG-BARGE MANNING.

- 19 Section 11508 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense
- 20 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-
- 21 263) is amended to read as follows:

## 22 "SEC. 11508. ARTICULATED TUG-BARGE MANNING.

- 23 "(a) In General.—Notwithstanding the watch setting
- 24 requirements set forth in section 8104 of title 46, United
- 25 States Code, or any other provision of law or regulation,

1	an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection may authorize a
2	covered vessel—
3	"(1) when engaged on a domestic voyage of more
4	than 600 miles, to be manned with a minimum num-
5	ber of 2 licensed engineers in the engine department;
6	and
7	"(2) when engaged on a voyage of less than 600
8	miles, to be manned with a minimum number of 1
9	licensed engineer in the engine department.
10	"(b) Covered Vessel Defined.—In this section, the
11	term 'covered vessel' means a towing vessel issued a certifi-
12	cate of inspection under subchapter M of chapter I of title
13	46, Code of Federal Regulations, which—
14	"(1) forms part of an articulated tug-barge unit;
15	and
16	"(2) is either—
17	"(A) equipped with engineering control and
18	monitoring systems of a type accepted by a rec-
19	ognized classification society for a periodically
20	unmanned machinery space notation or accepted
21	by the Commandant for a periodically unat-
22	tended machinery space endorsement; or
23	"(B) is a vessel that, prior to July 19, 2022,
24	was issued a minimum safe mannina document

1	or certificate of inspection that authorized equiv-
2	alent or less manning levels.".
3	Subtitle D—Other Matters
4	SEC. 341. ANCHOR HANDLING ACTIVITIES.
5	Section 12111(d) of title 46, United States Code, is
6	amended—
7	(1) in paragraph (1)—
8	(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting "or
9	other energy production or transmission facility,
10	or vessel engaged in the launch, recovery, or sup-
11	port of commercial space transportation or space
12	exploration activities" after "drilling unit"; and
13	(B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting "or
14	other energy production or transmission facility,
15	or vessel engaged in the launch, recovery, or sup-
16	port of commercial space transportation or space
17	exploration activities" after "drilling unit"; and
18	(2) by adding at the end the following:
19	"(3) Energy production or transmission fa-
20	CILITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'energy
21	production or transmission facility' means a floating
22	offshore facility that is—
23	"(A) not a vessel;
24	"(B) securely and substantially moored to
25	the seabed, but not by driven pile anchors; and

1	"(C) equipped with wind turbines which
2	are used for the generation and transmission of
3	non-mineral energy resources.".
4	SEC. 342. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COM-
5	MITTEE ON AUTONOMOUS MARITIME SYS-
6	TEMS.
7	(a) In General.—Chapter 151 of title 46, United
8	States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
9	"§ 15110. Establishment of National Advisory Com-
10	mittee on Autonomous Maritime Systems
11	"(a) Establishment.—There is established a Na-
12	tional Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Sys-
13	tems (in this section referred to as the 'Committee').
14	"(b) Function.—The Committee shall advise the Sec-
15	retary on matters relating to the regulation and use of Au-
16	tonomous Systems within the territorial waters of the
17	United States.
18	"(c) Membership.—
19	"(1) In General.—The Committee shall consist
20	of 9 members appointed by the Secretary in accord-
21	ance with this section and section 15109.
22	"(2) Expertise.—Each member of the Com-
23	mittee shall have particular expertise, knowledge, and
24	experience in matters relating to the function of the
25	Committee.

1	"(3) Representation.—Each of the following
2	groups shall be represented by at least 1 member on
3	the Committee:
4	"(A) Marine safety or security entities.
5	"(B) Vessel design and construction entities.
6	"(C) Entities engaged in the production or
7	research of unmanned vehicles, including drones,
8	autonomous or semi-autonomous vehicles, or any
9	other product or service integral to the provision,
10	maintenance, or management of such products or
11	services.
12	"(D) Port districts, authorities, or terminal
13	operators.
14	$"(E) \ Vessel \ operators.$
15	"(F) National labor unions representing
16	merchant mariners.
17	"(G) Maritime pilots.
18	"(H) Commercial space transportation op-
19	erators.
20	$``(I)\ A cademic\ institutions.".$
21	(b) Clerical Amendments.—The analysis for chap-
22	ter 151 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by add-
23	ing at the end the following:
	"15110. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime

"15110. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems.".

1 (c) Establishment.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish 3 the Committee under section 15110 of title 46, United States Code (as added by this section). 6 SEC. 343. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ONBOARD VESSELS. 7 Section 70503(a) of title 46. United States Code, is 8 amended— 9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by 10 striking "While on board a covered vessel, an indi-11 vidual" and inserting "An individual"; 12 (2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-13 lows: "(1) manufacture or distribute, possess with in-14 15 tent to manufacture or distribute, or place or cause 16 to be placed with intent to manufacture or distribute 17 a controlled substance on board a covered vessel;"; 18 and 19 (3) in paragraph (2) by inserting "aboard a cov-20 ered vessel" after "Comprehensive Drug Abuse Preven-21 tion and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 881(a))". 22 SEC. 344. NONOPERATING INDIVIDUAL. 23 Section 8313(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021

- 1 (Public Law 116–283) is amended by striking "2025" and
- 2 inserting "2027".
- 3 SEC. 345. INFORMATION ON TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFI-
- 4 CATES.
- 5 (a) In General.—Title IX of the Frank LoBiondo
- 6 Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-
- 7 282) is amended by adding at the end the following:
- 8 "SEC. 904. INFORMATION ON TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFI-
- 9 CATES.
- 10 "The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall, upon re-
- 11 quest by any State, the District of Columbia, or any terri-
- 12 tory of the United States, provide all data possessed by the
- 13 Coast Guard pertaining to challenge water quality charac-
- 14 teristics, challenge water biological organism concentra-
- 15 tions, post-treatment water quality characteristics, and
- 16 post-treatment biological organism concentrations data for
- 17 a ballast water management system with a type approval
- 18 certificate approved by the Coast Guard pursuant to sub-
- 19 part 162.060 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations.".
- 20 (b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents in
- 21 section 2 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authoriza-
- 22 tion Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282) is amended by in-
- 23 serting after the item relating to section 903 the following:

"Sec. 904. Information on type approval certificates.".

1	SEC. 346. MANNING AND CREWING REQUIREMENTS FOR
2	CERTAIN VESSELS, VEHICLES, AND STRUC-
3	TURES.
4	(a) Authorization of Limited Exemptions From
5	Manning and Crew Requirement.—Chapter 81 of title
6	46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
7	the following:
8	"§8109. Exemptions from manning and crew require-
9	ments
10	"(a) In General.—The Secretary may provide an ex-
11	emption described in subsection (b) to the owner or operator
12	of a covered facility if each individual who is manning or
13	crewing the covered facility is—
14	"(1) a citizen of the United States;
15	"(2) an alien lawfully admitted to the United
16	States for permanent residence; or
17	"(3) a citizen of the nation under the laws of
18	which the vessel is documented.
19	"(b) Requirements for Eligibility for Exemp-
20	TION.—An exemption under this subsection is an exemption
21	from the regulations established pursuant to section
22	302(a)(3) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43
23	$U.S.C.\ 1356(a)(3)).$
24	"(c) Limitations.—An exemption under this sec-
25	tion—

1	"(1) shall provide that the number of individuals
2	manning or crewing the covered facility who are de-
3	scribed in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a)
4	may not exceed two and one- half times the number
5	of individuals required to man or crew the covered fa-
6	cility under the laws of the nation under the laws of
7	which the covered facility is documented; and
8	"(2) shall be effective for not more than 12
9	months, but may be renewed by application to and
10	approval by the Secretary.
11	"(d) Application.—To be eligible for an exemption
12	or a renewal of an exemption under this section, the owner
13	or operator of a covered facility shall apply to the Secretary
14	with an application that includes a sworn statement by the
15	applicant of all information required for the issuance of
16	the exemption.
17	"(e) Revocation.—
18	"(1) In general.—The Secretary—
19	"(A) may revoke an exemption for a covered
20	facility under this section if the Secretary deter-
21	mines that information provided in the applica-
22	tion for the exemption was false or incomplete,
23	or is no longer true or complete; and
24	"(B) shall immediately revoke such an ex-
25	emption if the Secretary determines that the cov-

1	ered facility, in the effective period of the exemp-
2	tion, was manned or crewed in a manner not
3	authorized by the exemption.
4	"(2) Notice required.—The Secretary shall
5	provides notice of a determination under subpara-
6	graph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) to the owner or
7	operator of the covered facility.
8	"(f) Review of Compliance.—The Secretary shall
9	periodically, but not less than once annually, inspect each
10	covered facility that operates under an exemption under
11	this section to verify the owner or operator of the covered
12	facility's compliance with the exemption. During an inspec-
13	tion under this subsection, the Secretary shall require all
14	crew members serving under the exemption to hold a valid
15	transportation security card issued under section 70105.
16	"(g) Penalty.—In addition to revocation under sub-
17	section (e), the Secretary may impose on the owner or oper-
18	ator of a covered facility a civil penalty of \$10,000 per day
19	for each day the covered facility—
20	"(1) is manned or crewed in violation of an ex-
21	emption under this subsection; or
22	"(2) operated under an exemption under this
23	subsection that the Secretary determines was not val-
24	idly obtained.

"(h) Notification of Secretary of State.—The 1 2 Secretary shall notify the Secretary of State of each exemption issued under this section, including the effective period 3 of the exemption. 4 5 "(i) Definitions.—In this section: 6 "(1) Covered facility.—The term 'covered fa-7 cility' means any vessel, rig, platform, or other vehi-8 cle or structure, over 50 percent of which is owned by 9 citizens of a foreign nation or with respect to which 10 the citizens of a foreign nation have the right effec-11 tively to control, except to the extent and to the degree 12 that the President determines that the government of 13 such foreign nation or any of its political subdivi-14 sions has implemented, by statute, regulation, policy, 15 or practice, a national manning requirement for 16 equipment engaged in the exploring for, developing, or 17 producing resources, including non-mineral energy re-18 sources in its offshore areas. 19 "(2) Secretary.—The term 'Secretary' means 20 the Secretary of the department in which the Coast 21 Guard is operating.". 22 (b) Annual Report.— 23 (1) In general.—Not later than 1 year after 24 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-

after, the Secretary of the department in which the

1	Coast Guard is operating shall submit to Committee
2	on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
3	Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
4	Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
5	containing information on each letter of nonapplica-
6	bility of section 8109 of title 46, United States Code,
7	with respect to a covered facility that was issued by
8	the Secretary during the preceding year.
9	(2) Contents.—The report under paragraph (1)
10	shall include, for each covered facility—
11	(A) the name and International Maritime
12	$Organization\ number;$
13	(B) the nation in which the covered facility
14	$is\ documented;$
15	(C) the nationality of owner or owners; and
16	(D) for any covered facility that was pre-
17	viously issued a letter of nonapplicability in a
18	prior year, any changes in the information de-
19	scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (C).
20	(c) Regulations.—Not later than 90 days after the
21	date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pro-
22	mulgate regulations that specify the documentary and other
23	requirements for the issuance of an exemption under the
24	amendment made by this section.
25	(d) Existing Exemptions —

1	(1) Effect of amendments; termination.—
2	Each exemption under section $30(c)(2)$ of the Outer
3	Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1356(c)(2))
4	issued before the date of the enactment of this Act—
5	(A) shall not be affected by the amendments
6	made by this section during the 120-day period
7	beginning on the date of the enactment of this
8	Act; and
9	(B) shall not be effective after such period.
10	(2) Notification of holders.—Not later than
11	60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
12	the Secretary shall notify all persons that hold such
13	an exemption that it will expire as provided in para-
14	graph (1).
15	(e) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
16	81 of the title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding
17	at the end the following:
	"8109. Exemptions from manning and crew requirements.".
18	SEC. 347. CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES.
19	Section 3316(d) of title 46, United States Code, is
20	amended—
21	(1) by amending paragraph $(2)(B)(i)$ to read as
22	follows:
23	"(i) the government of the foreign country in
24	which the foreign society is headquartered—

1	"(I) delegates that authority to the Amer-
2	ican Bureau of Shipping; or
3	"(II) does not delegate that authority to any
4	classification society; or"; and
5	(2) by adding at the end the following:
6	"(5) Clarification on authority.—Nothing
7	in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to make a
8	delegation under paragraph (2) to a classification so-
9	ciety from the People's Republic of China.".
10	SEC. 348. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH SAFETY ZONES FOR
11	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN EXCLUSIVE ECO-
12	NOMIC ZONE.
13	(a) Repeal.—Section 8343 of the William M. (Mac)
14	Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
15	Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) is repealed.
16	(b) Special Activities in Exclusive Economic
17	Zone.—Subchapter I of chapter 700 of title 46, United
18	States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
19	"§ 70008. Special activities in exclusive economic zone
20	"(a) In General.—The Secretary of the department
21	in which the Coast Guard is operating may establish safety
22	zones to address special activities in the exclusive economic
23	zone.
24	"(b) Definitions.—In this section:
25	"(1) Safety zone.—The term 'safety zone'—

1	"(A) means a water area, shore area, or
2	water and shore area to which, for safety or en-
3	vironmental purposes, access is limited to au-
4	thorized persons, vehicles, or vessels; and
5	"(B) may be stationary and described by
6	fixed limits or may be described as a zone
7	around a vessel in motion.
8	"(2) Special activities.—The term 'special ac-
9	tivities' includes—
10	"(A) space activities, including launch and
11	reentry (as such terms are defined in section
12	50902 of title 51) carried out by United States
13	citizens; and
14	"(B) offshore energy development activities,
15	as described in section $8(p)(1)(C)$ of the Outer
16	Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
17	1337(p)(1)(C)), on or near fixed platforms (as
18	such term is defined in section 2281(d) of title
19	18).
20	"(3) United states citizen.—The term
21	'United States citizen' has the meaning given the
22	term 'eligible owners' in section 12103 of title 46,
23	United States Code.".

1	(c) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
2	700 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting
3	after the item relating to section 70007 the following:
	"70008. Special activities in exclusive economic zone.".
4	SEC. 349. FISHING VESSEL AND FISHERMAN TRAINING
5	SAFETY.
6	Section 4502 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
7	ed—
8	(1) in subsection (i)—
9	(A) in paragraph (1)—
10	(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking
11	"; and" and inserting a semicolon;
12	(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B)
13	as subparagraph (C); and
14	(iii) by inserting after subparagraph
15	(A) the following:
16	"(B) to conduct safety and prevention
17	training that addresses behavioral and physical
18	health risks, to include substance use disorder
19	and worker fatigue, facing fishing vessel opera-
20	tors and crewmembers; and";
21	(B) in paragraph (2)—
22	(i) by striking ", in consultation with
23	and based on criteria established by the
24	Commandant of the Coast Guard": and

1	(ii) by striking "subsection on a com-
2	petitive basis" and inserting the following:
3	``subsection
4	"(A) on a competitive basis; and
5	"(B) based on criteria developed in con-
6	sultation with the Commandant of the Coast
7	Guard"; and
8	(C) in paragraph (4) by striking
9	"\$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023" and inserting
10	"to the Secretary of Health and Human Services
11	\$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and
12	2026"; and
13	(2) in subsection (j)—
14	(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting ", and
15	understanding and mitigating behavioral and
16	physical health risks, to include substance use
17	disorder and worker fatigue, facing members of
18	the commercial fishing industry" after "weather
19	detection";
20	(B) in paragraph (2)—
21	(i) by striking ", in consultation with
22	and based on criteria established by the
23	Commandant of the Coast Guard,": and

1	(ii) by striking "subsection on a com-
2	petitive basis" and inserting the following:
3	``subsection
4	"(A) on a competitive basis; and
5	"(B) based on criteria developed in con-
6	sultation with the Commandant of the Coast
7	Guard"; and
8	(C) in paragraph (4) by striking
9	"\$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023" and inserting
10	"to the Secretary of Health and Human Services
11	\$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and
12	2026".
13	SEC. 350. AUTHORITY OVER DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF 1974.
14	(a) In General.—Section 5(a) of the Deepwater Port
15	Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1504(a)) is amended by striking
16	the first sentence and inserting "Notwithstanding section
17	888(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
18	468(b)), the Secretary shall have the authority to issue regu-
19	lations to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act,
20	in accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5,
21	United States Code, without regard to subsection (a) there-
22	of.".
23	(b) Affirming the Authority of Secretary of
24	Transportation Over Environmental Reviews.—Sec-

- 1 tion 5(f) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C.
- 2 1504(f) is amended to read as follows:
- 3 "(f) Compliance.—Notwithstanding section 888(b) of
- 4 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(b)), the
- 5 Secretary, in cooperation with other involved Federal agen-
- 6 cies and departments, shall comply with the National Envi-
- 7 ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and
- 8 act as the lead agency under section 4336a of title 42,
- 9 United States Code, for all applications under this Act.
- 10 Such compliance shall fulfill the requirement of all Federal
- 11 agencies in carrying out their responsibilities under the Na-
- 12 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 pursuant to this
- 13 chapter.".
- 14 (c) REGULATIONS.—
- 15 (1) In general.—Not later than 6 months after
- the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant
- shall transfer the authorities provided to the Coast
- 18 Guard in part 148 of title 33, Code of Federal Regu-
- 19 lations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of
- 20 this Act), except as provided in paragraph (2), to the
- 21 Secretary of Transportation.
- 22 (2) RETENTION OF AUTHORITY.—The Com-
- 23 mandant shall retain responsibility for authorities
- 24 pertaining to design, construction, equipment, and
- 25 operation of deepwater ports and navigational safety.

1	(3) UPDATES TO AUTHORITY.—As soon as prac-
2	ticable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3	retary shall issue such regulations as are necessary to
4	reflect the updates to authorities prescribed by this
5	subsection.
6	(d) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this sec-
7	tion, or the amendments made by this section, may be con-
8	strued to limit the authorities of other governmental agen-
9	cies previously delegated authorities of the Deepwater Port
10	Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).
11	(e) Applications.—Nothing in this section shall
12	apply to any application submitted before the date of enact-
13	ment of this Act.
14	SEC. 351. NATIONAL OFFSHORE SAFETY ADVISORY COM-
15	MITTEE COMPOSITION.
16	Section 15106(c) of title 46, United States Code, is
	Section 13100(c) of time 40, United States Code, is
17	amended—
17 18	
	amended—
18	amended—  (1) in paragraph (1) by striking "15 members"
18 19	amended—  (1) in paragraph (1) by striking "15 members"  and inserting "17 members"; and
18 19 20	amended—  (1) in paragraph (1) by striking "15 members" and inserting "17 members"; and  (2) in paragraph (3) by adding at the end the
18 19 20 21	amended—  (1) in paragraph (1) by striking "15 members" and inserting "17 members"; and  (2) in paragraph (3) by adding at the end the following:

1	SEC. 352. IMPROVING VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE MONI-
2	TORING.
3	(a) Proximity of Anchorages to Pipelines.—
4	(1) Implementation of restructuring
5	PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
6	ment of this Act, the Commandant shall implement
7	the November 2021 proposed plan of the Vessel Traffic
8	Service Los Angeles-Long Beach for restructuring the
9	Federal anchorages in San Pedro Bay described on
10	page 54 of the Report of the National Transportation
11	Safety Board titled "Anchor Strike of Underwater
12	Pipeline and Eventual Crude Oil Release" and issued
13	January 2, 2024.
14	(2) Study.—The Secretary of the department in
15	which the Coast Guard is operating shall conduct a
16	study to identify any anchorage grounds other than
17	the San Pedro Bay Federal anchorages in which the
18	distance between the center of an approved anchorage
19	ground and a pipeline is less than 1 mile.
20	(3) Report.—
21	(A) In General.—Not later than 2 years
22	after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
23	mandant shall submit to the Committee on
24	Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
25	of Representatives and the Committee on Com-

merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate

1	a report on the results of the study required
2	under paragraph (2).
3	(B) Contents.—The report under subpara-
4	graph (A) shall include—
5	(i) a list of the anchorage grounds de-
6	scribed under paragraph (2);
7	(ii) whether it is possible to move each
8	such anchorage ground to provide a min-
9	imum distance of 1 mile; and
10	(iii) a recommendation of whether to
11	move any such anchorage ground and ex-
12	planation for the recommendation.
13	(b) Proximity to Pipeline Alerts.—
14	(1) Audible and visual alarms.—The Com-
15	mandant shall consult with the providers of vessel
16	monitoring systems to add to the monitoring systems
17	for vessel traffic services audible and visual alarms
18	that alert the watchstander when an anchored vessel
19	is encroaching on a pipeline.
20	(2) Notification procedures.—Not later than
21	1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
22	Commandant shall develop procedures for all vessel
23	traffic services to notify pipeline and utility operators
24	following potential incursions on submerged pipelines
25	within the vessel traffic service area of responsibility.

1	(3) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the
2	date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-
3	after, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee
4	on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
5	Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
6	Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on
7	the implementation of paragraphs (1) and (2).
8	SEC. 353. ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSEL REMOVALS.
9	(a) In General.—Chapter 47 of title 46, United
10	States Code, is amended—
11	(1) in the chapter heading by striking
12	"BARGES" and inserting "VESSELS";
13	(2) by inserting before section 4701 the following:
14	"SUBCHAPTER I—BARGES"; and
15	(3) by adding at the end the following:
16	"SUBCHAPTER II—NON-BARGE VESSELS
17	"§ 4710. Definitions
18	"In this subchapter:
19	"(1) ABANDON.—The term 'abandon' means to
20	moor, strand, wreck, sink, or leave a covered vessel
21	unattended for longer than 45 days.
22	"(2) Covered vessel.—The term 'covered ves-
23	sel' means a vessel that is not a barge to which sub-
24	$chapter\ I\ applies.$

1	"(3) Indian Tribe.—The term 'Indian Tribe'
2	has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the
3	Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
4	Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).
5	"§ 4711. Abandonment of vessels prohibited
6	"(a) In General.—An owner or operator of a covered
7	vessel may not abandon such vessel on the navigable waters
8	of the United States.
9	"(b) Determination of Abandonment.—
10	"(1) Notification.—
11	"(A) In general.—With respect to a cov-
12	ered vessel that appears to be abandoned, the
13	Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—
14	"(i) attempt to identify the owner
15	using the vessel registration number, hull
16	identification number, or any other infor-
17	mation that can be reasonably inferred or
18	gathered; and
19	"(ii) notify such owner—
20	"(I) of the penalty described in
21	subsection (c); and
22	"(II) that the vessel will be re-
23	moved at the expense of the owner if
24	the Commandant determines that the

1	vessel is abandoned and the owner does
2	not remove or account for the vessel.
3	"(B) FORM.—The Commandant shall pro-
4	vide the notice required under subparagraph
5	(A)—
6	"(i) if the owner can be identified, via
7	certified mail or other appropriate forms
8	determined by the Commandant; or
9	"(ii) if the owner cannot be identified,
10	via an announcement in a local publication
11	and on a website maintained by the Coast
12	Guard.
13	"(2) Determination.—The Commandant shall
14	make a determination not earlier than 45 days after
15	the date on which the Commandant provides the noti-
16	fication required under paragraph (1) of whether a
17	covered vessel described in such paragraph is aban-
18	doned.
19	"(c) Penalty.—
20	"(1) In General.—The Commandant may as-
21	sess a civil penalty of not more than \$500 against an
22	owner or operator of a covered vessel determined to be
23	abandoned under subsection (b) for a violation of sub-
24	section (a).

1	"(2) Liability in Rem.—The owner or operator
2	of a covered vessel shall also be liable in rem for a
3	penalty imposed under paragraph (1).
4	"(d) Vessels Not Abandoned.—The Commandant
5	may not determine that a covered vessel is abandoned under
6	this section if—
7	"(1) such vessel is located at a federally ap-
8	proved or State approved mooring area;
9	"(2) such vessel is located on private property
10	with the permission of the owner of such property;
11	"(3) the owner or operator of such vessel provides
12	a notification to the Commandant that—
13	"(A) indicates the location of the vessel;
14	"(B) indicates that the vessel is not aban-
15	doned; and
16	"(C) contains documentation proving that
17	the vessel is allowed to be in such location; or
18	"(4) the Commandant determines that such an
19	abandonment determination would not be in the pub-
20	lic interest.
21	"§ 4712. Inventory of abandoned vessels
22	"(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the
23	date of enactment of this section, the Commandant, in con-
24	sultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic
25	and Atmospheric Administration and relevant State agen-

- 1 cies, shall establish and maintain a national inventory of
- 2 covered vessels that are abandoned.
- 3 "(b) Contents.—The inventory established and main-
- 4 tained under subsection (a) shall include data on each ves-
- 5 sel, including geographic information system data related
- 6 to the location of each such vessel.
- 7 "(c) Publication.—The Commandant shall make the
- 8 inventory established under subsection (a) publicly avail-
- 9 able on a website of the Coast Guard.
- 10 "(d) Reporting of Potentially Abandoned Ves-
- 11 SELS.—In carrying out this section, the Commandant shall
- 12 develop a process by which—
- "(1) a State, Indian Tribe, or person may report
- a covered vessel that may be abandoned to the Com-
- 15 mandant for potential inclusion in the inventory es-
- 16 tablished under subsection (a); and
- 17 "(2) the Commandant shall review any such re-
- port and add such vessel to the inventory if the Com-
- 19 mandant determines that the reported vessel is aban-
- doned pursuant to section 4711.".
- 21 (b) Rulemaking.—The Secretary of the department
- 22 in which the Coast Guard is operating, in consultation with
- 23 the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engi-
- 24 neers, and the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the
- 25 Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall issue

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1 regulations with respect to the procedures for determining
   that a vessel is abandoned for the purposes of subchapter
   II of chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code (as added
   by this section).
 5
        (c) Conforming Amendments.—Chapter 47 of title
 6
    46, United States Code, is amended—
 7
              (1) in section 4701—
 8
                  (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
 9
             by striking "chapter" and inserting "sub-
             chapter"; and
10
11
                  (B) in paragraph (2) by striking "chapter"
12
             and inserting "subchapter";
13
              (2) in section 4703 by striking "chapter" and
14
        inserting "subchapter";
15
             (3) in section 4704 by striking "chapter" each
        place it appears and inserting "subchapter"; and
16
17
             (4) in section 4705 by striking "chapter" and
18
        inserting "subchapter".
19
        (d) Clerical Amendments.—The analysis for chap-
    ter 47 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
21
              (1) by inserting before the item relating to sec-
22
        tion 4701 the following:
                     "SUBCHAPTER I—BARGES"; and
23
             (2) by adding at the end the following:
                       "SUBCHAPTER II—VESSELS
```

"4710. Definitions.

"4711. Abandonment of vessels prohibited.

"4712. Inventory of abandoned vessels.".

## SEC. 354. NEAR SHORE CABLE LAYING BARGE.

- 1 2 (a) In General.—Until the date that is 2 years after 3 the date of enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding subsection (b), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not enforce citizenship re-5 quirements under section 8103 of title 46, United States 7 Code, or the credentialing requirements under section 8701 8 of title 46, United States Code, with respect to a covered individual. 10 (b) Training.—Until the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall ensure that operators of near shore cable lay vertical trenching injector equipment on barges on which covered individuals
- 15 (1) develop processes and requirements for con-16 ducting certification and training such individuals; 17 and
- 18 (2) certify and train a sufficient cadre of quali-19 fied individuals.
- 20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
- 21 (1) Covered individual.—The term "covered 22 individual" means an individual, including near 23 shore cable lay vertical trenching injector operators or

14 *serve*—

1	near shore cable laying vertical trenching injector
2	support personnel, who is—
3	(A) engaged on board a barge for the pur-
4	pose of operating specialized equipment, includ-
5	ing a vertical trenching injector, necessary to lay
6	near shore power cable in support of non-min-
7	eral energy exploration, development, and pro-
8	duction; and
9	(B) not—
10	(i) included in the complement of li-
11	censed individuals to be stated in the cer-
12	tificate of inspection issued under chapter
13	33 of title 46, United States Code, to be nec-
14	essary by the Certificate of Inspection or to
15	ensure the safe navigation of such vessel; or
16	(ii) a member of the steward's depart-
17	ment on such a barge.
18	(2) Qualified individual.—The term "quali-
19	fied individual" means an individual qualified to—
20	(A) serve on a vessel documented under
21	chapter 121 of the title 46, United States Code,
22	under section 8103 of such title;
23	(B) receive a merchant mariner credential
24	under section 8701 of title 46, United States
25	$Code;\ and$

1	(C) available to operate and support the op-
2	eration of specialized near shore cable lay
3	vertical trenching injectors on United States-doc-
4	umented barges in support of United States off-
5	shore non-mineral energy exploration, develop-
6	ment, and production.
7	SEC. 355. ANCHORAGES.
8	Section 8437 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry Na-
9	tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub-
10	lic Law 116–283) is amended—
11	(1) by striking subsections (d) and (e);
12	(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection
13	(d); and
14	(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
15	lowing:
16	"(c) Prohibition.—The Commandant shall prohibit
17	any vessel anchoring on the reach of the Hudson River de-
18	scribed in subsection (a) unless such anchoring is within
19	any anchorage established before January 1, 2021.".
20	TITLE IV—OIL POLLUTION
21	INCIDENT LIABILITY
22	SEC. 401. VESSEL RESPONSE PLANS.
23	(a) In General.—Section 311(j)(6) of the Federal
24	Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)(6)) is
25	amended to read as follows:

1	"(6) Equipment requirements, verification,
2	AND INSPECTION.—
3	"(A) In general.—The President may re-
4	quire—
5	"(i) periodic inspection of containment
6	booms, skimmers, vessels, and other major
7	equipment used to remove discharges;
8	"(ii) periodic inspection of vessels, sal-
9	vage and marine firefighting equipment,
10	and other major equipment used to respond
11	to marine casualties or prevent discharges;
12	"(iii) periodic verification of capabili-
13	ties to appropriately, and in a timely man-
14	ner, respond to a marine casualty, a worst
15	case discharge, or a substantial threat of a
16	discharge, including—
17	"(I) drills, with or without prior
18	notice;
19	"(II) review of contracts and rel-
20	evant third-party agreements;
21	$``(III)\ testing\ of\ equipment;$
22	"(IV) review of training; and
23	"(V) other evaluations of response
24	capabilities, as determined appropriate
25	by the President; and

"(iv) vessels operating on navigable waters and carrying oil or a hazardous substance in bulk as cargo, and nontank vessels carrying oil of any kind as fuel for main propulsion, to carry appropriate removal equipment that employs the best technology economically feasible and that is compatible with the safe operation of the vessel.

"(B) MARINE CASUALTY.—In this paragraph, the term 'marine casualty' means a marine casualty that is required to be reported pursuant to section 6101 of title 46, United States Code.".

## (b) Report to Congress.—

(1) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the state of marine firefighting authorities, jurisdiction, plan review, and other considerations with respect to vessel fires at waterfront facilities and within the navigable waters of the United States up to 3 nautical miles from the shoreline.

1	(2) Contents.—In carrying out paragraph (1),
2	the Comptroller General shall—
3	(A) examine factors that affect Federal and
4	non-Federal collaboration aimed at reducing ves-
5	sel and waterfront facility fire risk to local com-
6	munities;
7	(B) focus on the prevalence and frequency of
8	vessel fires described in paragraph (1); and
9	(C) make recommendations for prepared-
10	ness, responses to, training for, and other items
11	$for\ consideration.$
12	SEC. 402. USE OF MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS.
13	Section 6308 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
14	ed—
15	(1) in subsection (a) by striking "initiated" and
16	inserting "conducted"; and
17	(2) by adding at the end the following:
18	"(e) For purposes of this section, an administrative
19	proceeding conducted by the United States includes pro-
20	ceedings under section 7701 and claims adjudicated under
21	section 1013 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C.
22	2713).".
23	SEC. 403. TIMING OF REVIEW.
24	Section 1017 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33
25	U.S.C. 2717) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 "(q) Timing of Review.—Before the date of comple-2 tion of a removal action, no person may bring an action under this Act, section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution 3 4 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321), or chapter 7 of title 5, United 5 States Code, challenging any decision relating to such removal action that is made by an on-scene coordinator ap-6 pointed under the National Contingency Plan.". 8 SEC. 404. ONLINE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM. 9 (a) In General.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Response Center 10 11 shall— 12 (1) develop an online capacity through a web-13 based application to receive a notification of an oil 14 discharge or release of a hazardous substance; and 15 (2) allow any such notification to the National 16 Response Center that is required under Federal law 17 or regulation to be made online using the application. 18 (b) Use of Application.—In carrying out subsection 19 (a), the National Response Center may not require the noti-

fication of an oil discharge or release of a hazardous sub-

stance to be made using the application developed under

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22 such subsection.

1	TITLE V—IMPLEMENTATION OF
2	ACCOUNTABILITY AND
3	TRANSPARENCY REVIEW REC-
4	<b>OMMENDATIONS</b>
5	SEC. 501. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF DIRECTED AC-
6	TIONS.
7	(a) In General.—Chapter 51 of title 14, United
8	States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
9	"§5116. Implementation status of directed actions
10	"(a) In General.—Not later than March 1, 2025, and
11	not later than March 1 of each of the 3 subsequent years
12	thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee
13	on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
14	resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
15	Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of the
16	implementation of each directed action outlined in enclo-
17	sure 1 of the memorandum of the Commandant titled 'Com-
18	mandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Trans-
19	parency', dated November 27, 2023.
20	"(b) Contents.—The report required under section
21	(a) shall contain the following:
22	"(1) The status of the implementation of each di-
23	rected action from enclosure 1 of the memorandum ti-
24	tled 'Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability
25	and Transparency' dated November 27, 2023.

1	"(2) A plan and timeline for the next steps to be
2	taken to complete outstanding directed actions in en-
3	closure 1 of the memorandum titled 'Commandant's
4	Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency'
5	dated November 27, 2023, including identifying the
6	individual the Commandant has selected to ensure the
7	successful completion of each directed action.
8	"(3) Metrics to determine the effectiveness of each
9	directed action in such enclosure.
10	"(4) Any additional actions the Commandant is
11	taking to mitigate instances of sexual assault and sex-
12	ual harassment within the Coast Guard.".
13	(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
14	51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding
15	at the end the following:
	"5116. Implementation status of directed actions.".
16	SEC. 502. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF COAST GUARD RE-
17	FORMS.
18	(a) Government Accountability Office Re-
19	PORT.—
20	(1) In General.—Not later than 1 year after
21	the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
22	General of the United States shall report to the Com-
23	mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
24	House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
25	merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on

1	the efforts of the Coast Guard to mitigate cases of sex-
2	ual assault and sexual harassment within the service.
3	(2) Elements.—The report required under
4	paragraph (1) shall—
5	(A) evaluate—
6	(i) the efforts of the Commandant to
7	implement the directed actions from enclo-
8	sure 1 of the memorandum titled "Com-
9	mandant's Directed Actions—Account-
10	ability and Transparency" dated November
11	27, 2023;
12	(ii) whether the Commandant met the
13	reporting requirements under section 5112
14	of title 14, United States Code; and
15	(iii) the effectiveness of the actions of
16	the Coast Guard, including efforts outside of
17	the actions described in the memorandum
18	titled "Commandant's Directed Actions—
19	Accountability and Transparency" dated
20	November 27, 2023, to mitigate instances of
21	sexual assault and sexual harassment and
22	improve the enforcement relating to such in-
23	stances within the Coast Guard, and how
24	the Coast Guard is overcoming challenges in
25	implementing such actions.

1	(B) make recommendations to the Com-
2	mandant for improvements to the efforts of the
3	service to mitigate instances of sexual assault
4	and sexual harassment and improve the enforce-
5	ment relating to such instances within the Coast
6	Guard; and
7	(C) make recommendations to the Com-
8	mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
9	the House of Representatives and the Committee
10	on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
11	the Senate to mitigate instances of sexual assault
12	and sexual harassment in the Coast Guard and
13	improve the enforcement relating to such in-
14	stances within the Coast Guard, including pro-
15	posed changes to any legislative authorities.
16	(b) Report by Commandant.—Not later than 90
17	days after the date on which the Comptroller General com-
18	pletes all actions under subsection (a), the Commandant
19	shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and In-
20	frastructure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
21	mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
22	Senate a report that includes the following:
23	(1) A plan for Coast Guard implementation, in-
24	cluding interim milestones and timeframes, of any

 $recommendation \ \ made \ \ by \ \ the \ \ Comptroller \ \ General$ 

1	under subsection $(a)(2)(B)$ with which the Com
2	mandant concurs.
3	(2) With respect to any recommendation made
4	under subsection $(a)(2)(B)$ with which the Com
5	mandant does not concur, an explanation of the rea
6	sons why the Commandant does not concur.
7	SEC. 503. REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CERTAIN RECORDS
8	(a) In General.—Chapter 9 of title 14, United State
9	Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
10	"§ 955. Requirement to maintain certain records
11	"(a) In General.—The Commandant shall maintain
12	all work product related to final action documenting a dis
13	position decision on an investigation by the Coast Guard
14	Investigative Service or other law enforcement entity inves
15	tigating a Coast Guard member accused of misconduct for
16	not less than 7 years from date of the disposition decision
17	"(b) Final Action Memo.—Upon a final action docu
18	menting a disposition decision described in subsection (a)
19	the convening authority or final decision making authority
20	as applicable, shall sign a final action memo that include
21	the following:
22	"(1) A reference section listing the materials re
23	viewed in making a disposition decision.

1	"(2) The Coast Guard Investigative Service re-
2	port of investigation listed as either a reference or an
3	enclosure.
4	"(3) The prosecution memo, signed by the con-
5	vening authority or the final decision making author-
6	ity, listed and included as an enclosure.
7	"(4) The completed Coast Guard Investigative
8	Service report of adjudication listed and included as
9	an enclosure.
10	"(5) The disposition decision.
11	"(c) Work Product.—In this section, the term 'work
12	product' includes—
13	"(1) a prosecution memo;
14	"(2) emails, notes, and other correspondence re-
15	lated to a disposition decision; and
16	"(3) the content described in paragraphs (1)
17	through (5) of subsection (b).".
18	(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
19	9 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding
20	at the end the following:
	"955. Requirement to maintain certain records.".
21	SEC. 504. STUDY ON COAST GUARD ACADEMY OVERSIGHT.
22	(a) In General.—Not later than 30 days after the
23	date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in con-
24	sultation with relevant stakeholders, shall conduct a study
25	on the governance of the Coast Guard Academy, including

1	examining the roles, responsibilities, authorities, advisory
2	functions, and membership qualifications and expertise of
3	the Board of Visitors and Board of Trustees of such Acad-
4	emy.
5	(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
6	enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the
7	Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
8	House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
9	Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written report
10	that contains—
11	(1) the results of the study required under sub-
12	section (a); and
13	(2) recommendations to improve governance at
14	the Coast Guard Academy.
15	SEC. 505. PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF A CADET WHO
16	IS THE VICTIM OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RE-
17	LATED OFFENSE.
18	Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
19	ed by adding at the end the following:
20	"(f) Consideration of Request for Transfer of
21	Cadet Who Is the Victim of Sexual Assault or Re-
22	LATED OFFENSE.—
23	"(1) In general.—The Commandant shall pro-
24	vide for timely consideration of and action on a re-
25	quest submitted by a cadet appointed to the Coast

1	Guard Academy who is the victim of an alleged sex-
2	ual assault or other offense covered by section 920,
3	920c, or 930 of title 10 (article 120, 120c, or 130 of
4	the Uniform Code of Military Justice) for transfer to
5	a Service Academy or to enroll in a Senior Reserve
6	Officers' Training Corps program affiliated with an-
7	other institution of higher education.
8	"(2) Rulemaking.—The Commandant shall pre-
9	scribe regulations to carry out this subsection that—
10	"(A) ensure that any cadet who has been
11	appointed to the Coast Guard Academy is in-
12	formed of the right to request a transfer pursu-
13	ant to this subsection, and that any formal re-
14	quest submitted by a cadet is processed as expe-
15	ditiously as practicable for review and action by
16	$the \ Superintendent;$
17	"(B) direct the Superintendent of the Coast
18	Guard Academy, in coordination with the Su-
19	perintendent of the Service Academy to which
20	the cadet requests to transfer—
21	"(i) to act on a request for transfer
22	under this subsection not later than 72
23	hours after receiving the formal request
24	from the cadet;

1	"(ii) to approve such request for trans-
2	fer unless there are exceptional cir-
3	cumstances that require denial of the re-
4	quest; and
5	"(iii) upon approval of such request, to
6	take all necessary and appropriate action to
7	effectuate the transfer of the cadet to the
8	Service Academy concerned as expeditiously
9	as possible; and
10	"(C) direct the Superintendent of the Coast
11	Guard Academy, in coordination with the Sec-
12	retary of the military department that sponsors
13	the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps pro-
14	gram at the institution of higher education to
15	which the cadet requests to transfer—
16	"(i) to act on a request for transfer
17	under this subsection not later than 72
18	hours after receiving the formal request
19	from the cadet;
20	"(ii) subject to the cadet's acceptance
21	for admission to the institution of higher
22	education to which the cadet wishes to
23	transfer, to approve such request for trans-
24	fer unless there are exceptional cir-

1	cumstances that require denial of the re-
2	quest; and
3	"(iii) to take all necessary and appro-
4	priate action to effectuate the cadet's enroll-
5	ment in the institution of higher education
6	to which the cadet wishes to transfer and to
7	process the cadet for participation in the
8	relevant Senior Reserve Officers' Training
9	Corps program as expeditiously as possible.
10	"(3) Denial of transfer request.—If the
11	Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy denies a
12	request for transfer under this subsection, the cadet
13	may request review of the denial by the Secretary of
14	the Department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
15	ating, who shall act on such request not later than 72
16	hours after receipt of the formal request for review.
17	"(4) Confidentiality of records.—The Sec-
18	retary of the Department in which the Coast Guard
19	is operating shall ensure that all records of any re-
20	quest, determination, transfer, or other action under
21	this subsection remain confidential, consistent with
22	applicable law and regulation.
23	"(5) Appointment to service academy.—A
24	cadet who transfers under this subsection may retain
25	the cadet's appointment to the Coast Guard Academy

or may be appointed to the Service Academy to which the cadet transfers without regard to the limitations and requirements described in sections 7442, 8454, and 9442 of title 10.

### "(6) Appointment upon graduation.—

- "(A) Preference.—A cadet who transfers under this subsection to a Service Academy, is entitled, before graduating from such Academy, to state the preference of the cadet for appointment, upon graduation, as a commissioned officer in the Coast Guard.
- "(B) Manner of appointment.—Upon graduation, a cadet described in subparagraph (A) is entitled to be accepted for appointment as a permanent commissioned officer in the Regular Coast Guard in the same manner as graduates of the Coast Guard Academy as described in section 2101.
- "(7) COMMISSION INTO COAST GUARD.—A cadet who transfers under this subsection to a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program affiliated with another institution of higher education is entitled upon graduation from the Senior Reserve Officers' Training program to commission into the Coast Guard as described in section 3738a.

1	"(8) Service academy defined.—In this sub-
2	section, the term 'Service Academy' has the meaning
3	given such term in section 347 of title 10.".
4	SEC. 506. DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS WITH PARTICULAR
5	EXPERTISE IN MILITARY JUSTICE OR
6	HEALTHCARE.
7	(a) In General.—Subchapter I of chapter 21 of title
8	14, United States Code is amended by adding at the end
9	the following:
10	"§2132. Designation of officers with particular exper-
11	tise in military justice or healthcare
12	"(a) Secretary Designation.—The Secretary may
13	designate a limited number of officers of the Coast Guard
14	as having particular expertise in—
15	"(1) military justice; or
16	"(2) healthcare.
17	"(b) Promotion and Grade.—An individual des-
18	ignated under this section—
19	"(1) shall not be included on the active duty pro-
20	motion list;
21	"(2) shall be promoted under section 2126; and
22	"(3) may not be promoted to a grade higher than
23	captain.".

1	(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
2	21 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting
3	after the item relating to section 2131 the following:
	"2132. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or healthcare.".
4	(c) Conforming Amendments.—
5	(1) Section 2102(a) of title 14, United States
6	Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by striking
7	"and officers of the permanent commissioned teaching
8	staff of the Coast Guard Academy" and inserting "of-
9	ficers of the permanent commissioned teaching staff of
10	the Coast Guard Academy, and officers designated by
11	the Secretary pursuant to section 2132".
12	(2) Subsection (e) of section 2103 of title 14,
13	United States Code, is amended to read as follows:
14	"(e) Secretary to Prescribe Numbers for Cer-
15	TAIN OFFICERS.—The Secretary shall prescribe the number
16	of officers authorized to be serving on active duty in each
17	grade of—
18	"(1) the permanent commissioned teaching staff
19	of the Coast Guard Academy;
20	"(2) the officers designated by the Secretary pur-
21	suant to section 2132; and
22	"(3) the officers of the Reserve serving in connec-
23	tion with organizing, administering, recruiting, in-
24	structing, or training the reserve components.".

1	(3) Section 2126 of title 14, United States Code,
2	is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting "and
3	as to officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to
4	section 2132" after "reserve components".
5	(4) Section 3736(a) of title 14, United States
6	Code, is amended—
7	(A) in the first sentence by striking "pro-
8	motion list and the" and inserting "promotion
9	list, officers designated by the Secretary pursu-
10	ant to section 2132, and the officers on the"; and
11	(B) in the second sentence by striking "pro-
12	motion list or the" and inserting "promotion
13	list, officers designated by the Secretary pursu-
14	ant to section 2132, or the officers on the".
15	SEC. 507. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PER-
16	SONNEL OF COAST GUARD.
17	(a) In General.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title
18	14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
19	the following:
20	"§2517. Direct hire authority for certain personnel of
21	Coast Guard
22	"(a) In General.—The Commandant may appoint,
23	$without\ regard\ to\ the\ provisions\ of\ subchapter\ I\ of\ chapter$
24	33 of title 5 (other than section 3303 and 3328 of such chap-
25	ter), qualified candidates to any non-clinical specialist in-

- 1 tended to engage in the integrated primary prevention of
- 2 harmful behaviors, including suicide, sexual assault, har-
- 3 assment, domestic abuse, and child abuse and qualified can-
- 4 didates to any criminal investigative law enforcement posi-
- 5 tion of the Coast Guard Criminal Investigative Service in-
- 6 tended to engage in the primary response to such harmful
- 7 behaviors.
- 8 "(b) SUNSET.—Effective on September 30, 2034, the
- 9 authority provided under subsection (a) shall cease.".
- 10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter
- 11 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting
- 12 after the item related to section 2516 the following:
  "2517. Direct hire authority for certain personnel of United States Coast Guard.".
- 13 SEC. 508. SAFE-TO-REPORT POLICY FOR COAST GUARD.
- 14 (a) In General.—Subchapter I of chapter 19 of title
- 15 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at
- 16 the end the following:
- 17 "§ 1908. Safe-to-report policy for Coast Guard
- 18 "(a) In General.—The Secretary of the department
- 19 in which the Coast Guard is operating shall, in consultation
- 20 with the Secretaries of the military departments, issue such
- 21 regulations as are necessary to establish the safe-to-report
- 22 policy described in subsection (b) that applies with respect
- 23 to all members of the Coast Guard (including members of
- 24 the reserve and auxiliary components of the Coast Guard)
- 25 and cadets at the Coast Guard Academy.

- 1 "(b) Safe-to-report Policy.—The safe-to-report
- 2 policy described in this subsection is a policy that prescribes
- 3 the handling of minor collateral misconduct involving a
- 4 member of the Coast Guard who is the alleged victim or
- 5 reporting witness of a sexual assault.
- 6 "(c) MITIGATING AND AGGRAVATING CIR-
- 7 CUMSTANCES.—In issuing regulations under subsection (a),
- 8 the Secretary shall specify mitigating circumstances that
- 9 decrease the gravity of minor collateral misconduct or the
- 10 impact of such misconduct on good order and discipline and
- 11 aggravating circumstances that increase the gravity of
- 12 minor collateral misconduct or the impact of such mis-
- 13 conduct on good order and discipline for purposes of the
- 14 safe-to-report policy.
- 15 "(d) Tracking of Collateral Misconduct Inci-
- 16 Dents.—In conjunction with the issuance of regulations
- 17 under subsection (a), Secretary shall develop and imple-
- 18 ment a process to anonymously track incidents of minor
- 19 collateral misconduct that are subject to the safe-to-report
- 20 policy established under such regulations.
- 21 "(e) Minor Collateral Misconduct Defined.—In
- 22 this section, the term 'minor collateral misconduct' means
- 23 any minor misconduct that is punishable under chapter 47
- 24 *of title 10 that*—

1	"(1) is committed close in time to or during a
2	sexual assault and directly related to the incident
3	that formed the basis of the sexual assault allegation;
4	"(2) is discovered as a direct result of the report
5	of sexual assault or the ensuing investigation into
6	such sexual assault; and
7	"(3) does not involve aggravating circumstances
8	(as specified in the regulations issued under sub-
9	section (a)) that increase the gravity of the minor
10	misconduct or the impact of such misconduct on good
11	order and discipline.".
12	(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
13	19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by
14	inserting after the item relating to section 1907 (as added
15	by this Act) the following:
	"1908. Safe-to-report policy for Coast Guard.".
16	SEC. 509. MODIFICATION OF DELIVERY DATE OF COAST
17	GUARD SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORT.
18	Section 5112(a) of title 14, United States Code, is
19	amended by striking "January 15" and inserting "March
20	1".
21	SEC. 510. HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEW OF BOARD OF DETER-
22	MINATION DECISIONS.
23	(a) In General.—Section 2158 of title 14, United
24	States Code is amended—

1	(1) in the first sentence by striking "The Sec-
2	retary" and inserting the following:
3	"(a) In General.—The Secretary"; and
4	(2) by adding at the end the following:
5	"(b) Higher-level Review of Sexual Assault
6	Cases.—
7	"(1) In general.—If a board convened under
8	this section determines that the officer should be re-
9	tained when the officer's record indicates that the offi-
10	cer has committed a sexual assault offense, the board
11	shall forward the record of the proceedings and rec-
12	ommendation of the board for higher-level review, in
13	accordance with regulations prescribed by the Sec-
14	retary.
15	"(2) AUTHORITY.—The official exercising higher-
16	level review shall have authority to forward the case
17	for consideration by a Board of Inquiry in accord-
18	ance with section 2159.
19	"(c) Sexual Assault Offense Defined.—In this
20	section, the term 'sexual assault offense' means a violation
21	of section 920 or 920b of title 10, United States Code (arti-
22	cle 120 or 120b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice)
23	or attempt to commit an offense specified under section 920
24	or 920b as punishable under section 880 of such title (arti-
25	cle 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).".

### 1 SEC. 511. REVIEW OF DISCHARGE OR DISMISSAL.

- 2 (a) In General.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title
- 3 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at
- 4 the end the following:

## 5 "§2518. Review of discharge or dismissal

- 6 "(a) DOWNGRADE.—
- 7 "(1) In General.—In addition to the require-8 ments of section 1553 of title 10, a board of review 9 for a former member of the Coast Guard established 10 pursuant to such section may, upon a motion of the 11 board and subject to review by the Secretary of the de-12 partment in which the Coast Guard is operating, downgrade an honorable discharge or dismissal to a 13 general (under honorable conditions) discharge or dis-14 15 missal upon a finding that a former member of the 16 Coast Guard, while serving on active duty as a mem-17 ber of the armed forces, committed sexual assault or 18 sexual harassment in violation of section 920, 920b. 19 or 934 of this title (article 120, 120b, or 134 of the 20 Uniform Code of Military Justice).
  - "(2) EVIDENCE.—Any downgrade under paragraph (1) shall be supported by clear and convincing evidence.
- 24 "(3) LIMITATION.—The review board under 25 paragraph (1) may not downgrade a discharge or dis-26 missal of a former member of the Coast Guard if the

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same action described in paragraph (1) was considered prior to separation from active duty by an administrative board in determining the characterization of discharge as otherwise provided by law and in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

### "(b) Procedural Rights.—

- "(1) IN GENERAL.—A review by a board established under section 1553 of title 10 shall be based on the records of the armed forces concerned and such other evidence as may be presented to the board.
- "(2) EVIDENCE BY WITNESS.—A witness may present evidence to the board in person or by affidavit.
- "(3) APPEARANCE BEFORE BOARD.—A person who requests a review under this section may appear before the board in person or by counsel or an accredited representative of an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 59 of title 38.
- "(4) Notification.—A former member of the Coast Guard who is subject to a downgrade in discharge characterization review under subsection (b)(3) shall be notified in writing of such proceedings, af-

1	forded the right to obtain copies of records and docu-
2	ments relevant to the proceedings, and the right to ap-
3	pear before the board in person or by counsel or an
4	accredited representative of an organization recog-
5	nized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under
6	chapter 59 of title 38.".
7	(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter
8	25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by
9	inserting after the item relating to section 2517 (as added
10	by this Act) the following:
	"2518. Review of discharge or dismissal.".
11	SEC. 512. CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER AS GROUNDS FOR DE-
12	NIAL.
13	Section 7511(a) of title 46, United States Code, is
14	amended—
14 15	amended— (1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";
15	(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";
15 16	<ul><li>(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";</li><li>(2) in paragraph (2) by striking "State, local, or</li></ul>
15 16 17	<ul> <li>(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";</li> <li>(2) in paragraph (2) by striking "State, local, or</li> <li>Tribal law" and inserting "Federal, State, local, or</li> </ul>
15 16 17 18	<ul> <li>(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";</li> <li>(2) in paragraph (2) by striking "State, local, or</li> <li>Tribal law" and inserting "Federal, State, local, or</li> <li>Tribal law";</li> </ul>
15 16 17 18	(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";  (2) in paragraph (2) by striking "State, local, or  Tribal law" and inserting "Federal, State, local, or  Tribal law";  (3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
115 116 117 118 119 220	(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";  (2) in paragraph (2) by striking "State, local, or  Tribal law" and inserting "Federal, State, local, or  Tribal law";  (3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and
115 116 117 118 119 220 221	(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";  (2) in paragraph (2) by striking "State, local, or  Tribal law" and inserting "Federal, State, local, or  Tribal law";  (3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and  (4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
115 116 117 118 119 220 221 222	(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "or";  (2) in paragraph (2) by striking "State, local, or  Tribal law" and inserting "Federal, State, local, or  Tribal law";  (3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and  (4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

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1	SEC. 513. COAST GUARD ACADEMY ROOM REASSIGNMENT.
2	Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is further
3	amended by adding at the end the following:
4	"(g) Room Reassignment.—Coast Guard Academy
5	Cadets may request room reassignment if experiencing dis-
6	comfort due to Coast Guard Academy rooming assign-
7	ments."
8	TITLE VI—AMENDMENTS
9	SEC. 601. AMENDMENTS.
10	(a) Prohibition on Entry and Operation.—Sec-
11	tion 70022(b)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended
12	by striking "Federal Register" and inserting "the Federal
13	Register".
14	(b) Port, Harbor, and Coastal Facility Secu-
15	RITY.—Section 70116(b) of title 46, United States Code, is
16	amended—
17	(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "terrorism
18	cyber" and inserting "terrorism, cyber"; and
19	(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting a comma after
20	"acts of terrorism".
21	(c) Enforcement by State and Local Officers.—
22	Section 70118(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
23	ed—
24	(1) by striking "section 1 of title II of the Act
25	of June 15, 1917 (chapter 30; 50 U.S.C. 191)" and

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inserting "section 70051"; and

1	(2) by striking "section 7(b) of the Ports and
2	Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1226(b))" and in-
3	serting "section 70116(b)".
4	(d) Chapter 701 Definitions.—Section 70131(2) of
5	title 46, United States Code, is amended—
6	(1) by striking "section 1 of title II of the Act
7	of June 15, 1917 (50 U.S.C. 191)" and inserting "sec-
8	tion 70051"; and
9	(2) by striking "section 7(b) of the Ports and
10	Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1226(b))" and in-
11	serting "section 70116(b)".
12	(e) Notice of Arrival Requirements for Vessels
13	on the Outer Continental Shelf.—
14	(1) Preparatory conforming amendment.—
15	Section 70001 of title 46, United States Code, is
16	amended by redesignating subsections (l) and (m) as
17	subsections (m) and (n), respectively.
18	(2) Transfer of Provision.—Section 704 of
19	the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act
20	2012 (Public Law 112–213; 46 U.S.C. 70001 note)
21	is—
22	(A) amended by striking "of title 46, United
23	States Code,";
24	(B) transferred to appear after 70001(k) of
25	title 46. United States Code: and

1	(C) redesignated as subsection $(l)$ .
2	(f) Title 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amend-
3	ed as follows:
4	(1) Section 2101(2) is amended by striking "sec-
5	tion 1" and inserting "section 101".
6	(2) Section $2116(b)(1)(D)$ is amended by strik-
7	ing "section 93(c)" and inserting "section 504(c)".
8	(3) In the analysis for subtitle VII by striking
9	the period after "70001" in the item relating to chap-
10	ter 700.
11	(4) In the analysis for chapter 700 by striking
12	the item relating to section 70006 and inserting the
13	following:
	"70006. Establishment by Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating of anchorage grounds and regulations generally.".
14	(5) In the heading for subchapter IV in the anal-
15	ysis for chapter 700 by inserting a comma after
16	"DEFINITIONS".
17	(6) In the heading for subchapter VI in the anal-
18	ysis for chapter 700 by striking "OF THE
19	UNITED" and inserting "OF UNITED".
20	(7) Section 70052(e)(1) is amended by striking
21	"section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United
22	States (46 U.S.C. App. 91)" and inserting "section
23	60105".

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(q) OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990.—The Oil Pollution
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   Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seg.) is amended as follows:
 3
             (1) Section 1001(32)(G) (33 U.S.C. 2701(32)(G))
 4
         is amended by striking "pipeline" and all that follows
 5
         through "offshore facility" and inserting "pipeline,
 6
         offshore facility".
 7
              (2) Section 1016 (33 U.S.C. 2716) is amended—
 8
                  (A) by redesignating subsections (e) through
 9
             (i) as subsections (d) through (h), respectively;
10
             and
11
                  (B) in subsection (e)(1)(B), as redesignated
12
             by subparagraph (A), by striking "subsection
13
             (e)" and inserting "subsection (d)".
14
             (3) Section 1012(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 2712(b)(2)) is
15
         amended by striking "section 1016(f)(1)" and insert-
         ing "section 1016(e)(1)".
16
17
                    Section
                               1005(b)(5)(B)
                                                       U.S.C.
             (4)
                                                (33
18
        2705(b)(5)(B)) is amended by striking
                                                      "section
19
         1016(g)" and inserting "section 1016(f)".
20
              (5) Section 1018(c) (33 U.S.C. 2718(c)) is
21
         amended by striking "the Act of March 3, 1851 (46
22
         U.S.C. 183 et seg.)" and inserting "chapter 305 of
23
         title 46, United States Code".
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1	(6) Section $7001(h)(1)$ (33 U.S.C. $2761(h)(1)$ ) is
2	amended by striking "subsection (c)(4)" and inserting
3	"subsection $(e)(4)$ ".

# Union Calendar No. 411

118TH CONGRESS H. R. 7659

[Report No. 118-495]

## A BILL

To authorize and amend authorities, programs, and statutes administered by the Coast Guard.

May 8, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed