

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1987

AN ACT

To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Coast Guard Author-
3 ization Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

5 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

- Sec. 101. Authorizations.
- Sec. 102. Conforming amendments.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

- Sec. 201. Vice Commandant.
- Sec. 202. Vice admirals.
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- Sec. 204. Acquisition reform.
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- Sec. 211. Digital boat profile pilot program.
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- Sec. 301. Treatment of fishing permits.
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- Sec. 306. Marine event safety zones.
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- Sec. 309. Recreational vessel engine weights.
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- Sec. 501. Conveyance of Coast Guard property in Marin County, California.
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 Sec. 508. National Academy of Sciences cost comparison.
 Sec. 509. Penalty wages.
 Sec. 510. Recourse for noncitizens.

1 **TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS**

2 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is
 4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“PART III—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATIONS AND** 6 **REPORTS TO CONGRESS**

“Chap.	Sec.
“27. Authorizations	2701
“29. Reports	2901.

7 **“CHAPTER 27—AUTHORIZATIONS**

- “Sec.
 “2702. Authorization of appropriations.
 “2704. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

8 **“§ 2702. Authorization of appropriations**

9 “Funds are authorized to be appropriated for each
 10 of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for necessary expenses of
 11 the Coast Guard as follows:

12 “(1) For the operation and maintenance of the
 13 Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for—

1 “(A) \$6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2016;

2 and

3 “(B) \$6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2017.

4 “(2) For the acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment—

9 “(A) \$1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2016;

10 and

11 “(B) \$1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2017.

12 “(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including operations and maintenance of the program, personnel and training costs, equipment, and services—

16 “(A) \$140,016,000 for fiscal year 2016;

17 and

18 “(B) \$140,016,000 for fiscal year 2017.

19 “(4) For the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 20 19 of this title—

22 “(A) \$16,701,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

23 “(B) \$16,701,000 for fiscal year 2017.

24 “(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard
25 for research, development, test, and evaluation of

1 technologies, materials, and human factors directly
2 related to improving the performance of the Coast
3 Guard’s mission with respect to search and rescue,
4 aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environ-
5 mental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties,
6 ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense
7 readiness, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease,
8 and operation of facilities and equipment—

9 “(A) \$19,890,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

10 “(B) \$19,890,000 for fiscal year 2017.

11 **“§ 2704. Authorized levels of military strength and**
12 **training**

13 “(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is
14 authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty per-
15 sonnel of 43,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

16 “(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The
17 Coast Guard is authorized average military training stu-
18 dent loads for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 as fol-
19 lows:

20 “(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500
21 student years.

22 “(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

23 “(3) For professional training in military and
24 civilian institutions, 350 student years.

1 “(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student
2 years.

3 **“CHAPTER 29—REPORTS**

“Sec.

“2904. Manpower requirements plan.

4 **“§ 2904. Manpower requirements plan**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the Presi-
6 dent submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017
7 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the
8 President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year
9 2019 under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the
10 Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
11 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
12 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
13 tation of the Senate a manpower requirements plan.

14 “(b) SCOPE.—A manpower requirements plan sub-
15 mitted under subsection (a) shall include for each mission
16 of the Coast Guard—

17 “(1) an assessment of all projected mission re-
18 quirements for the upcoming fiscal year and for each
19 of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

20 “(2) the number of active duty, reserve, and ci-
21 vilian personnel assigned or available to fulfill such
22 mission requirements—

23 “(A) currently; and

1 “(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal
2 year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

3 “(3) the number of active duty, reserve, and ci-
4 vilian personnel required to fulfill such mission re-
5 quirements—

6 “(A) currently; and

7 “(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal
8 year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

9 “(4) an identification of any capability gaps be-
10 tween mission requirements and mission perform-
11 ance caused by deficiencies in the numbers of per-
12 sonnel available—

13 “(A) currently; and

14 “(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal
15 year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

16 and

17 “(5) an identification of the actions the Com-
18 mandant will take to address capability gaps identi-
19 fied under paragraph (4).

20 “(c) CONSIDERATION.—In composing a manpower
21 requirements plan for submission under subsection (a),
22 the Commandant shall consider—

23 “(1) the marine safety strategy required under
24 section 2116 of title 46;

1 “(2) information on the adequacy of the acqui-
2 sition workforce included in the most recent report
3 under section 2903 of this title; and

4 “(3) any other Federal strategic planning effort
5 the Commandant considers appropriate.”.

6 (b) REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF
7 APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 662 of title 14, United States
8 Code, is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating such section as section
10 2701;

11 (2) by transferring such section to appear be-
12 fore section 2702 of such title (as added by sub-
13 section (a) of this section); and

14 (3) by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and
15 inserting the following:

16 “(1) For the operation and maintenance of the
17 Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for.

18 “(2) For the acquisition, construction, renova-
19 tion, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore
20 facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment
21 related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation,
22 lease, and operation of facilities and equipment.

23 “(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, in-
24 cluding operations and maintenance of the program,

1 personnel and training costs, equipment, and serv-
2 ices.

3 “(4) For the environmental compliance and res-
4 toration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter
5 19 of this title.

6 “(5) For research, development, test, and eval-
7 uation of technologies, materials, and human factors
8 directly related to improving the performance of the
9 Coast Guard.

10 “(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over
11 navigable waters of the United States constituting
12 obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and
13 administrative costs associated with the Alteration of
14 Bridges Program.”.

15 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL END
16 STRENGTHS.—Section 661 of title 14, United States
17 Code, is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating such section as section
19 2703; and

20 (2) by transferring such section to appear be-
21 fore section 2704 of such title (as added by sub-
22 section (a) of this section).

23 (d) REPORTS.—

1 (1) TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD
2 AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.—Section 662a of title
3 14, United States Code, is amended—

4 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
5 tion 2901;

6 (B) by transferring such section to appear
7 before section 2904 of such title (as added by
8 subsection (a) of this section); and

9 (C) in subsection (b)—

10 (i) in paragraph (1) by striking “de-
11 scribed in section 661” and inserting “de-
12 scribed in section 2703”; and

13 (ii) in paragraph (2) by striking “de-
14 scribed in section 662” and inserting “de-
15 scribed in section 2701”.

16 (2) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section 663
17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

18 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
19 tion 2902; and

20 (B) by transferring such section to appear
21 after section 2901 of such title (as so redesi-
22 gnated and transferred by paragraph (1) of this
23 subsection).

24 (3) MAJOR ACQUISITIONS.—Section 569a of
25 title 14, United States Code, is amended—

1 (A) by redesignating such section as sec-
2 tion 2903;

3 (B) by transferring such section to appear
4 after section 2902 of such title (as so redesign-
5 ated and transferred by paragraph (2) of this
6 subsection); and

7 (C) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “of this
8 subchapter”.

9 (e) ICEBREAKING ON THE GREAT LAKES.—For fiscal
10 years 2016 and 2017, the Commandant of the Coast
11 Guard may use funds made available pursuant to section
12 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code (as added by sub-
13 section (a) of this section) for the selection of a design
14 for and the construction of an icebreaker that is capable
15 of buoy tending to enhance icebreaking capacity on the
16 Great Lakes.

17 (f) ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS.—The Commandant
18 of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on
19 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives—

20 (1) each plan required under section 2904 of
21 title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection
22 (a) of this section;

23 (2) each plan required under section 2903(e) of
24 title 14, United States Code, as added by section
25 206 of this Act;

1 (3) each plan required under section 2902 of
2 title 14, United States Code, as redesignated by sub-
3 section (d) of this section; and

4 (4) each mission need statement required under
5 section 569 of title 14, United States Code.

6 **SEC. 102. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

7 (a) ANALYSIS FOR TITLE 14.—The analysis for title
8 14, United States Code, is amended by adding after the
9 item relating to part II the following:

**“III. Coast Guard Authorizations and Reports to Con-
gress 2701”.**

10 (b) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 15.—The analysis for
11 chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended
12 by striking the item relating to section 569a.

13 (c) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for
14 chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended
15 by striking the items relating to sections 661, 662, 662a,
16 and 663.

17 (d) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 27.—The analysis for
18 chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, as added by
19 section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting—

20 (1) before the item relating to section 2702 the
21 following:

“2701. Requirement for prior authorization of appropriations.”;

22 and

1 (2) before the item relating to section 2704 the
2 following:

“2703. Authorization of personnel end strengths.”.

3 (e) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 29.—The analysis for
4 chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, as added by
5 section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting before
6 the item relating to section 2904 the following:

“2901. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.

“2902. Capital investment plan.

“2903. Major acquisitions.”.

7 (f) MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—Section 569(b) of
8 title 14, United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “in section
10 569a(e)” and inserting “in section 2903”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (3) by striking “under section
12 663(a)(1)” and inserting “under section
13 2902(a)(1)”.

14 **TITLE II—COAST GUARD**

15 **SEC. 201. VICE COMMANDANT.**

16 (a) GRADES AND RATINGS.—Section 41 of title 14,
17 United States Code, is amended by striking “an admiral,”
18 and inserting “admirals (two);”.

19 (b) VICE COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.—Section 47
20 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking
21 “vice admiral” and inserting “admiral”.

22 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 51 of title
23 14, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a) by inserting “admiral or”
2 before “vice admiral,”;

3 (2) in subsection (b) by inserting “admiral or”
4 before “vice admiral,” each place it appears; and

5 (3) in subsection (c) by inserting “admiral or”
6 before “vice admiral,”.

7 (d) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
8 sion of law, the officer who, on the date of the enactment
9 of this Act, is serving as Vice Commandant of the Coast
10 Guard—

11 (1) shall have the grade of admiral, with the
12 pay and allowances of that grade; and

13 (2) shall not be required to be reappointed by
14 reason of the enactment of this Act, including the
15 amendments made by this Act.

16 **SEC. 202. VICE ADMIRALS.**

17 Section 50 of title 14, United States Code, is amend-
18 ed—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(1) The President may—

23 “(A) designate, within the Coast Guard, no
24 more than five positions of importance and responsi-
25 bility that shall be held by officers who, while so

1 serving, shall have the grade of vice admiral, with
2 the pay and allowances of that grade, and shall per-
3 form such duties as the Commandant may prescribe
4 (if the President designates five such positions, one
5 position shall be a Chief of Staff); and

6 “(B) designate, within the executive branch,
7 other than within the Coast Guard or the National
8 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, positions
9 of importance and responsibility that shall be held
10 by officers who, while so serving, shall have the
11 grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances
12 of that grade.”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking
14 “under paragraph (1)” and inserting “under
15 paragraph (1)(A)”; and
16 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (B) by striking “and”
18 at the end;

19 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
20 subparagraph (D); and

21 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
22 the following:

23 “(C) at the discretion of the Secretary, while
24 awaiting orders after being relieved from the posi-
25 tion, beginning on the day the officer is relieved

1 from the position, but not for more than 60 days;
2 and”.

3 **SEC. 203. COAST GUARD REMISSION OF INDEBTEDNESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 461 of title 14, United
5 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 “§ 461. Remission of indebtedness

7 “The Secretary may have remitted or cancelled any
8 part of a person’s indebtedness to the United States or
9 any instrumentality of the United States if—

10 “(1) the indebtedness was incurred while the
11 person served on active duty as a member of the
12 Coast Guard; and

13 “(2) the Secretary determines that remitting or
14 cancelling the indebtedness is in the best interest of
15 the United States.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
17 ter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by
18 striking the item relating to section 461 and inserting the
19 following:

“461. Remission of indebtedness.”.

20 **SEC. 204. ACQUISITION REFORM.**

21 (a) MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Section
22 572(d)(3) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

23 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through
24 (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (J), respectively;

1 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
2 paragraph (C);

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

5 “(B) the performance data to be used to
6 determine whether the key performance param-
7 eters have been resolved;” and

8 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C), as re-
9 designated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the
10 following:

11 “(D) the results during test and evaluation
12 that will be required to demonstrate that a ca-
13 pability, asset, or subsystem meets performance
14 requirements;”.

15 (b) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section
16 2902(a)(1) of title 14, United States Code, as redesign-
17 nated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further
18 amended—

19 (1) in subparagraph (B) by striking “comple-
20 tion;” and inserting “completion based on the pro-
21 posed appropriations included in the budget;” and

22 (2) in subparagraph (D) by striking “at the
23 projected funding levels;” and inserting “based on
24 the proposed appropriations included in the budg-
25 et;”.

1 (c) DAYS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT.—Not later than
2 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

4 (1) implement a standard for tracking oper-
5 ational days at sea for Coast Guard cutters that
6 does not include days during which such cutters are
7 undergoing maintenance or repair; and

8 (2) notify the Committee on Transportation
9 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
10 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
11 Transportation of the Senate of the standard imple-
12 mented under paragraph (1).

13 (d) FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FLEET MIX ANALYSIS.—
14 Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commandant of
15 the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Trans-
16 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
17 tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
18 Transportation of the Senate a revised fleet mix analysis
19 of Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft.

20 **SEC. 205. AUXILIARY JURISDICTION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 822 of title 14, United
22 States Code, is amended—

23 (1) by striking “The purpose” and inserting the
24 following:

25 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(b) LIMITATION.—The Auxiliary may conduct a pa-
3 trol of a waterway, or a portion thereof, only if—

4 “(1) the Commandant has determined such wa-
5 terway, or portion thereof, is navigable for purposes
6 of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard; or

7 “(2) a State or other proper authority has re-
8 quested such patrol pursuant to section 141 of this
9 title or section 13109 of title 46.”.

10 (b) NOTIFICATION.—The Commandant of the Coast
11 Guard shall—

12 (1) review the waterways patrolled by the Coast
13 Guard Auxiliary in the most recently completed fis-
14 cal year to determine whether such waterways are
15 eligible or ineligible for patrol under section 822(b)
16 of title 14, United States Code (as added by sub-
17 section (a)); and

18 (2) not later than 180 days after the date of
19 the enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee
20 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
21 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
22 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written
23 notification of—

24 (A) any waterways determined ineligible
25 for patrol under paragraph (1); and

1 (B) the actions taken by the Commandant
2 to ensure Auxiliary patrols do not occur on such
3 waterways.

4 **SEC. 206. LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.**

5 Section 2903 of title 14, United States Code, as re-
6 designated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further
7 amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
9 section (f); and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—
13 Each report under subsection (a) shall include a plan that
14 describes for the upcoming fiscal year, and for each of the
15 20 fiscal years thereafter—

16 “(1) the numbers and types of cutters and air-
17 craft to be decommissioned;

18 “(2) the numbers and types of cutters and air-
19 craft to be acquired to—

20 “(A) replace the cutters and aircraft iden-
21 tified under paragraph (1); or

22 “(B) address an identified capability gap;
23 and

24 “(3) the estimated level of funding in each fis-
25 cal year required to—

1 “(A) acquire the cutters and aircraft iden-
2 tified under paragraph (2);

3 “(B) acquire related command, control,
4 communications, computer, intelligence, surveil-
5 lance, and reconnaissance systems; and

6 “(C) acquire, construct, or renovate shore-
7 side infrastructure.”.

8 **SEC. 207. COAST GUARD COMMUNITIES.**

9 Section 409 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act
10 of 1998 (14 U.S.C. 639 note) is amended by striking the
11 second sentence and inserting the following: “The Com-
12 mandant may recognize any other community in a similar
13 manner if the Commandant determines that such commu-
14 nity has demonstrated enduring support of the Coast
15 Guard, Coast Guard personnel, and the dependents of
16 Coast Guard personnel.”.

17 **SEC. 208. “POLAR SEA” MATERIEL CONDITION ASSESSMENT**
18 **AND SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION DECISION.**

19 Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Trans-
20 portation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat.
21 1560) is amended—

22 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
23 lows:

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after
25 the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authoriza-

1 tion Act of 2015, the Secretary of the department in which
2 the Coast Guard is operating shall—

3 “(1) complete a materiel condition assessment
4 with respect to the Polar Sea;

5 “(2) make a determination of whether it is cost
6 effective to reactivate the Polar Sea compared with
7 other options to provide icebreaking services as part
8 of a strategy to maintain polar icebreaking services;
9 and

10 “(3) submit to the Committee on Transpor-
11 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Represent-
12 atives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
13 and Transportation of the Senate—

14 “(A) the assessment required under para-
15 graph (1); and

16 “(B) written notification of the determina-
17 tion required under paragraph (2).”;

18 (2) in subsection (b) by striking “analysis” and
19 inserting “written notification”;

20 (3) by striking subsection (c);

21 (4) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h)
22 as subsections (c) through (g), respectively;

23 (5) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by para-
24 graph (4) of this section)—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A) by striking
2 “based on the analysis required”; and

3 (ii) in subparagraph (C) by striking
4 “analysis” and inserting “written notifica-
5 tion”;

6 (B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
7 follows:

8 “(2) DECOMMISSIONING.—If the Secretary
9 makes a determination under subsection (a) that it
10 is not cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea,
11 then, not later than 180 days after written notifica-
12 tion of that determination is submitted under that
13 subsection, the Commandant of the Coast Guard
14 may decommission the Polar Sea.”; and

15 (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
16 follows:

17 “(3) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If the
18 Secretary does not make a determination under sub-
19 section (a) regarding whether it is cost effective to
20 reactivate the Polar Sea, then the Commandant of
21 the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.”;

22 (6) in subsection (d)(1) (as redesignated by
23 paragraph (4) of this section) by striking “analysis”
24 and inserting “written notification”; and

1 “(B) the lease amount is equal to the fair
2 market value of the use of the leased sub-
3 merged lands or tidelands for the period during
4 which such lands are leased, as determined by
5 the Commandant;

6 “(C) the lease does not provide authority
7 to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support
8 any improvements to such submerged lands and
9 tidelands, or obtain goods and services from the
10 lessee; and

11 “(D) proceeds from the lease are deposited
12 in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established
13 under section 687.”;

14 (5) in the analysis for chapter 9 by striking the
15 item relating to section 199 and inserting the fol-
16 lowing:

“199. Marine safety curriculum.”;

17 (6) in section 427(b)(2) by striking “this chap-
18 ter” and inserting “chapter 61 of title 10”;

19 (7) in the analysis for chapter 15 before the
20 item relating to section 571 by striking the fol-
21 lowing:

“Sec.”;

22 (8) in section 573(c)(3)(A) by inserting “and
23 shall maintain such cutter in class” before the pe-
24 riod at the end;

1 **SEC. 211. DIGITAL BOAT PROFILE PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—If, during the 1-year period begin-
3 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
4 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard is op-
5 erating determines that there are at least two digital boat
6 profile technologies that are commercially available, the
7 Secretary shall establish a pilot program, in accordance
8 with this section, under which digital boat profiles are uti-
9 lized for—

10 (1) not less than two National Security Cutters;

11 (2) not less than four Fast Response Cutters;

12 and

13 (3) not less than four Medium Endurance Cut-
14 ters (270 foot).

15 (b) TIMING.—With respect to the National Security
16 Cutters and Fast Response Cutters participating in the
17 pilot program, a digital boat profile shall be established
18 prior to the commissioning of the cutters.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the estab-
20 lishment of the pilot program, and annually thereafter for
21 the succeeding 4 years, the Secretary of the department
22 in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the
23 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
24 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
25 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
26 describing—

1 (1) the implementation of the pilot program;
2 and

3 (2) the results of the use of digital boat profiles
4 under the pilot program with respect to—

5 (A) efficient maintenance of the cutters in-
6 volved; and

7 (B) the post-delivery warranty manage-
8 ment of equipment items, the repair and re-
9 placement of which are contractually obligated.

10 (d) DIGITAL BOAT PROFILE DEFINED.—In this sec-
11 tion, the term “digital boat profile” means a commercially
12 available off-the-shelf technology that creates an electronic
13 data source with respect to a vessel that—

14 (1) provides lifecycle management support, in-
15 cluding through the incorporation of systems manu-
16 als, schematics, and vessel documentation;

17 (2) incorporates all manufacturer recommenda-
18 tions and operator best practices;

19 (3) incorporates the use of real-time analytics
20 of deferred tasks, future tasks, readiness assess-
21 ments, and budgetary planners;

22 (4) provides advance electronic notification of
23 upcoming maintenance and inspections to multi-level
24 permission-based recipients on a daily, weekly, or
25 monthly basis;

1 (5) facilitates oversight for pre-delivery discrep-
2 ancy reporting and post-delivery warranty manage-
3 ment of equipment items, the repair and replace-
4 ment of which are contractually obligated; and

5 (6) is accessible by computing devices.

6 **SEC. 212. DISCONTINUANCE OF AN AID TO NAVIGATION.**

7 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
9 department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
10 establish a process for the discontinuance of an aid to
11 navigation established, maintained, or operated by the
12 Coast Guard.

13 (b) **REQUIREMENT.**—The process established under
14 subsection (a) shall include procedures to notify the public
15 of any discontinuance of an aid to navigation described
16 in that subsection.

17 (c) **CONSULTATION.**—In establishing a process under
18 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with and con-
19 sider any recommendations of the Navigation Safety Advi-
20 sory Council.

21 (d) **NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 30 days after es-
22 tablishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary
23 shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
24 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
2 Senate of the process established.

3 **SEC. 213. MISSION PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

4 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
5 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
6 shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and In-
7 frastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of
8 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
9 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an as-
10 sessment of the efficacy of the Coast Guard's Standard
11 Operational Planning Process with respect to annual mis-
12 sion performance measures.

13 **SEC. 214. COMMUNICATIONS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department
15 in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish and
16 carry out a response capabilities pilot program to assess,
17 at not fewer than two Coast Guard command centers, the
18 effectiveness of a radio gateway that—

19 (1) provides for—

20 (A) multiagency collaboration and inter-
21 operability; and

22 (B) wide-area, secure, and peer-invitation-
23 and-acceptance-based multimedia communica-
24 tions;

1 (2) is certified by the Department of Defense
2 Joint Interoperability Test Center; and

3 (3) is composed of commercially available, off-
4 the-shelf technology.

5 (b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
7 for the succeeding 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to
8 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
9 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
10 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an as-
11 sessment of the pilot program, including the impacts of
12 the program with respect to interagency and Coast Guard
13 response capabilities.

14 **SEC. 215. COAST GUARD GRADUATE MARITIME OPER-**
15 **ATIONS EDUCATION.**

16 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the
18 Coast Guard is operating shall establish an education pro-
19 gram, for members and employees of the Coast Guard,
20 that—

21 (1) offers a master’s degree in maritime oper-
22 ations;

23 (2) is relevant to the professional development
24 of such members and employees;

1 (3) provides resident and distant education op-
2 tions, including the ability to utilize both options;
3 and

4 (4) to the greatest extent practicable, is con-
5 ducted using existing academic programs at an ac-
6 credited public academic institution that—

7 (A) is located near a significant number of
8 Coast Guard, maritime, and other Department
9 of Homeland Security law enforcement per-
10 sonnel; and

11 (B) has an ability to simulate operations
12 normally conducted at a command center.

13 **TITLE III—SHIPPING AND** 14 **NAVIGATION**

15 **SEC. 301. TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 313 of
17 title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
18 end the following:

19 **“§ 31310. Treatment of fishing permits**

20 “(a) LIMITATION ON MARITIME LIENS.—This chap-
21 ter—

22 “(1) does not establish a maritime lien on a
23 fishing permit; and

24 “(2) does not authorize any civil action to en-
25 force a maritime lien on a fishing permit.

1 “(b) TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS UNDER
2 STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.—A fishing permit—

3 “(1) is governed solely by the State or Federal
4 law under which it is issued; and

5 “(2) shall not be treated as part of a vessel, or
6 as an appurtenance or intangible of a vessel, for any
7 purpose under Federal law.

8 “(c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE NOT
9 AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as
10 imposing any limitation upon the authority of the Sec-
11 retary of Commerce—

12 “(1) to modify, suspend, revoke, or impose a
13 sanction on any fishing permit issued by the Sec-
14 retary of Commerce; or

15 “(2) to bring a civil action to enforce such a
16 modification, suspension, revocation, or sanction.

17 “(d) FISHING PERMIT DEFINED.—In this section the
18 term ‘fishing permit’ means any authorization of a person
19 or vessel to engage in fishing that is issued under State
20 or Federal law.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
22 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
23 after the item relating to section 31309 the following:

“31310. Treatment of fishing permits.”.

1 **SEC. 302. SURVIVAL CRAFT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104 of title 46, United
3 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

4 **“§ 3104. Survival craft**

5 “(a) REQUIREMENT TO EQUIP.—The Secretary shall
6 require that a passenger vessel be equipped with survival
7 craft that ensures that no part of an individual is im-
8 mersed in water, if—

9 “(1) such vessel is built or undergoes a major
10 conversion after January 1, 2016; and

11 “(2) operates in cold waters as determined by
12 the Secretary.

13 “(b) HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY.—The Sec-
14 retary may revise part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code
15 of Federal Regulations, as in effect before January 1,
16 2016, if such revision provides a higher standard of safety
17 than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before
18 the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authoriza-
19 tion Act of 2015.

20 “(c) INNOVATIVE AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Sec-
21 retary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part
22 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations,
23 as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast
24 Guard Authorization Act of 2015, allow a passenger vessel
25 to be equipped with a life saving appliance or arrangement
26 of an innovative or novel design that—

1 “(1) ensures no part of an individual is im-
2 mersed in water; and

3 “(2) provides an equal or higher standard of
4 safety than is provided by such requirements as in
5 effect before such date of the enactment.

6 “(d) BUILT DEFINED.—In this section, the term
7 ‘built’ has the meaning that term has under section
8 4503(e).”.

9 (b) REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—

10 (1) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31,
11 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the
12 Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Com-
13 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
14 House of Representatives and the Committee on
15 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
16 ate a review of—

17 (A) the number of casualties for individ-
18 uals with disabilities, children, and the elderly
19 as a result of immersion in water, reported to
20 the Coast Guard over the preceding 30-year pe-
21 riod, by vessel type and area of operation;

22 (B) the risks to individuals with disabil-
23 ities, children, and the elderly as a result of im-
24 mersion in water, by passenger vessel type and
25 area of operation;

1 (C) the effect that carriage of survival
2 craft that ensure that no part of an individual
3 is immersed in water has on—

4 (i) passenger vessel safety, including
5 stability and safe navigation;

6 (ii) improving the survivability of indi-
7 viduals, including individuals with disabil-
8 ities, children, and the elderly; and

9 (iii) the costs, the incremental cost
10 difference to vessel operators, and the cost
11 effectiveness of requiring the carriage of
12 such survival craft to address the risks to
13 individuals with disabilities, children, and
14 the elderly;

15 (D) the efficacy of alternative safety sys-
16 tems, devices, or measures in improving surviv-
17 ability of individuals with disabilities, children,
18 and the elderly; and

19 (E) the number of small businesses and
20 nonprofit vessel operators that would be af-
21 fected by requiring the carriage of such survival
22 craft on passenger vessels to address the risks
23 to individuals with disabilities, children, and the
24 elderly.

1 (2) REVISION.—Based on the review conducted
2 under paragraph (1), the Secretary may revise regu-
3 lations concerning the carriage of survival craft pur-
4 suant to section 3104(c) of title 46, United States
5 Code.

6 **SEC. 303. ENFORCEMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 55305(d) of title 46,
8 United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(1) Each department or agency that has re-
12 sponsibility for a program under this section shall
13 administer that program consistent with this section
14 and any regulations promulgated pursuant to sub-
15 chapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, issued by the Sec-
16 retary of Transportation, and developed in consulta-
17 tion with each department and agency subject to
18 this section.”;

19 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
20 graph (3), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the
21 following:

22 “(2)(A) The Secretary, after consulting with
23 the department, agency, organization, or person in-
24 volved, shall have sole responsibility for determining
25 the applicability of this section to a program of a

1 Federal department or agency, after consulting with
2 the department, agency, organization, or person in-
3 volved.

4 “(B) The head of a Federal department or
5 agency shall request the Secretary to determine the
6 applicability of this section to a program of such de-
7 partment or agency if the department or agency is
8 uncertain of such applicability. Not later than 30
9 days after receiving such a request, the Secretary
10 shall make such determination.

11 “(C) Subparagraph (B) shall not be construed
12 to limit the authority of the Secretary to make a de-
13 termination regarding the applicability of this sec-
14 tion to a program administered by a Federal depart-
15 ment or agency.

16 “(D) A determination made by the Secretary
17 under this paragraph regarding a program shall re-
18 main in effect until the Secretary determines that
19 this section no longer applies to such program.”;

20 (3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by
21 amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

22 “(A) shall conduct an annual review of the
23 administration of programs subject to the re-
24 quirements of this section to determine compli-

1 ance with the requirements of this section;”;

2 and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) On the date on which the President sub-
5 mits to Congress a budget pursuant to section 1105
6 of title 31, the Secretary shall make available on the
7 Internet website of the Department of Transpor-
8 tation a report that—

9 “(A) lists the programs that were subject
10 to determinations made by the Secretary under
11 paragraph (2) in the preceding year; and

12 “(B) describes the results of the most re-
13 cent annual review required by paragraph
14 (3)(A), including identification of the depart-
15 ments and agencies that transported cargo in
16 violation of this section and any action the Sec-
17 retary took under paragraph (3) with respect to
18 each violation.”.

19 (b) DEADLINE FOR FIRST REVIEW.—The Secretary
20 of Transportation shall complete the first review required
21 under the amendment made by subsection (a)(1)(C) by
22 not later than December 31, 2015.

23 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3511(e) of
24 the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act
25 for Fiscal Year 2009 (46 U.S.C. 55305 note) is repealed.

1 **SEC. 304. MODEL YEARS FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4302 of title 46, United
3 States Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(e)(1) If in prescribing regulations under this sec-
6 tion the Secretary establishes a model year for recreational
7 vessels and associated equipment, such model year shall,
8 except as provided in paragraph (2)—

9 “(A) begin on June 1 of a year and end on July
10 31 of the following year; and

11 “(B) be designated by the year in which it ends.

12 “(2) Upon the request of a recreational vessel manu-
13 facturer to which this chapter applies, the Secretary may
14 alter a model year for a model of recreational vessel of
15 the manufacturer and associated equipment, by no more
16 than 6 months from the model year described in para-
17 graph (1).”.

18 (b) APPLICATION.—This section shall only apply with
19 respect to recreational vessels and associated equipment
20 constructed or manufactured, respectively, on or after
21 June 1, 2015.

22 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
24 department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
25 publish guidance to implement section 4302(d)(2) of title
26 46, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 305. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL EXPIRATION**
2 **HARMONIZATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
4 (c) and not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which
6 the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process to
7 harmonize the expiration dates of merchant mariner cre-
8 dentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer
9 endorsements for individuals applying to the Secretary for
10 a new merchant mariner credential or for renewal of an
11 existing merchant mariner credential.

12 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure
13 that the process established under subsection (a)—

14 (1) does not require an individual to renew a
15 merchant mariner credential earlier than the date on
16 which the individual's current credential expires; and

17 (2) results in harmonization of expiration dates
18 for merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical
19 certificates, and radar observer endorsements for all
20 individuals by not later than 6 years after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act.

22 (c) EXCEPTION.—The process established under sub-
23 section (a) does not apply to individuals—

24 (1) holding a merchant mariner credential
25 with—

1 (A) an active Standards of Training, Cer-
2 tification, and Watchkeeping endorsement; or

3 (B) Federal first-class pilot endorsement;

4 or

5 (2) who have been issued a time-restricted med-
6 ical certificate.

7 **SEC. 306. MARINE EVENT SAFETY ZONES.**

8 Section 6 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33
9 U.S.C. 1225) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(c) MARINE EVENT SAFETY ZONES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
13 graph (2), the Secretary shall recover all costs the
14 Coast Guard incurs to enforce a safety zone under
15 this section if such safety zone is established for a
16 marine event conducted under a permit or other au-
17 thorization by the Coast Guard.

18 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not re-
19 cover costs under paragraph (1) from a State or
20 local government.

21 “(3) TREATMENT OF RECOVERED COSTS.—
22 Costs recovered by the Secretary under this sub-
23 section shall be credited to the appropriation for op-
24 erating expenses of the Coast Guard.

1 “(4) MARINE EVENT DEFINED.—In this section
2 the term ‘marine event’ means a planned activity of
3 limited duration that by its nature, circumstances,
4 or location, will introduce extra or unusual hazards
5 to the safety of life on the navigable waters of the
6 United States.”.

7 **SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

8 (a) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in section 103, by striking “(33 U.S.C.
11 151).” and inserting “(33 U.S.C. 151(b)).”;

12 (2) in section 2118—

13 (A) in subsection (a), in the matter pre-
14 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “title,” and
15 inserting “subtitle,”; and

16 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “title”
17 and inserting “subtitle”;

18 (3) in the analysis for chapter 35—

19 (A) by adding a period at the end of the
20 item relating to section 3507; and

21 (B) by adding a period at the end of the
22 item relating to section 3508;

23 (4) in section 3715(a)(2), by striking “; and”
24 and inserting a semicolon;

1 (5) in section 8103(b)(1)(A)(iii), by striking
2 “Academy.” and inserting “Academy; and”; and

3 (6) in section 11113(c)(1)(A)(i), by striking
4 “under this Act”.

5 (b) GENERAL BRIDGE STATUTES.—

6 (1) ACT OF MARCH 3, 1899.—The Act of March
7 3, 1899, popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors
8 Appropriations Act of 1899, is amended—

9 (A) in section 9 (33 U.S.C. 401), by strik-
10 ing “Secretary of Transportation” each place it
11 appears and inserting “Secretary of the depart-
12 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating”;
13 and

14 (B) in section 18 (33 U.S.C. 502), by
15 striking “Secretary of Transportation” each
16 place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the
17 department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
18 ating”.

19 (2) ACT OF MARCH 23, 1906.—The Act of March
20 23, 1906, popularly known as the Bridge Act of
21 1906, is amended—

22 (A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 491), by
23 striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
24 serting “Secretary of the department in which
25 the Coast Guard is operating”;

1 (B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 494), by strik-
2 ing “Secretary of Homeland Security” each
3 place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the
4 department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
5 ating”; and

6 (C) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 495), by strik-
7 ing “Secretary of Transportation” each place it
8 appears and inserting “Secretary of the depart-
9 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

10 (3) ACT OF AUGUST 18, 1894.—Section 5 of the
11 Act entitled “An Act making appropriations for the
12 construction, repair, and preservation of certain pub-
13 lic works on rivers and harbors, and for other pur-
14 poses”, approved August 18, 1894 (33 U.S.C. 499)
15 is amended by striking “Secretary of Transpor-
16 tation” each place it appears and inserting “Sec-
17 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard
18 is operating”.

19 (4) ACT OF JUNE 21, 1940.—The Act of June
20 21, 1940, popularly known as the Truman-Hobbs
21 Act, is amended—

22 (A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 511), by
23 striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
24 serting “Secretary of the department in which
25 the Coast Guard is operating”;

1 (B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 514), by strik-
2 ing “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting
3 “Secretary of the department in which the
4 Coast Guard is operating”;

5 (C) in section 7 (33 U.S.C. 517), by strik-
6 ing “Secretary of Transportation” each place it
7 appears and inserting “Secretary of the depart-
8 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating”;
9 and

10 (D) in section 13 (33 U.S.C. 523), by
11 striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
12 serting “Secretary of the department in which
13 the Coast Guard is operating”.

14 (5) GENERAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1946.—The Gen-
15 eral Bridge Act of 1946 is amended—

16 (A) in section 502(b) (33 U.S.C. 525(b)),
17 by striking “Secretary of Transportation” and
18 inserting “Secretary of the department in which
19 the Coast Guard is operating”; and

20 (B) in section 510 (33 U.S.C. 533), by
21 striking “Secretary of Transportation” each
22 place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the
23 department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
24 ating”.

1 (6) INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1972.—The
2 International Bridge Act of 1972 is amended—

3 (A) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 535c), by
4 striking “Secretary of Transportation” and in-
5 serting “Secretary of the department in which
6 the Coast Guard is operating”; and

7 (B) in section 8 (33 U.S.C. 535e), by
8 striking “Secretary of Transportation” each
9 place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the
10 department in which the Coast Guard is oper-
11 ating”.

12 **SEC. 308. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF MA-**
13 **RINE CASUALTY REPORTING.**

14 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard
16 shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
17 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
18 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
19 Senate of the actions the Commandant will take to imple-
20 ment recommendations on improvements to the Coast
21 Guard’s marine casualty reporting requirements and pro-
22 cedures included in—

23 (1) the Department of Homeland Security Of-
24 fice of Inspector General report entitled “Marine Ac-
25 cident Reporting, Investigations, and Enforcement

1 in the United States Coast Guard”, released on May
2 23, 2013; and

3 (2) the Towing Safety Advisory Committee re-
4 port entitled “Recommendations for Improvement of
5 Marine Casualty Reporting”, released on March 26,
6 2015.

7 **SEC. 309. RECREATIONAL VESSEL ENGINE WEIGHTS.**

8 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which
10 the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations
11 amending Table 4 to Subpart H of Part 183—Weights
12 (Pounds) of Outboard Motor and Related Equipment for
13 Various Boat Horsepower Ratings (33 CFR 183) as ap-
14 propriate to reflect “Standard 30—Outboard Engine and
15 Related Equipment Weights” published by the American
16 Boat and Yacht Council, as in effect on the date of the
17 enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 310. MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION**

19 **REFORM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United
21 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 **“§ 7509. Medical certification by trusted agents**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
25 vision of law and pursuant to regulations prescribed by

1 the Secretary, a trusted agent may issue a medical certifi-
2 cate to an individual who—

3 “(1) must hold such certificate to qualify for a
4 license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner’s
5 document, or endorsement thereto under this part;
6 and

7 “(2) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and phys-
8 ical condition to perform the duties of such license,
9 certificate, document, or endorsement, as determined
10 by the trusted agent.

11 “(b) TRUSTED AGENT DEFINED.—In this section the
12 term ‘trusted agent’ means a medical practitioner certified
13 by the Secretary to perform physical examinations of an
14 individual for purposes of a license, certificate of registry,
15 or merchant mariner’s document under this part.”.

16 (b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 3 years after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
18 department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
19 issue a final rule implementing section 7509 of title 46,
20 United States Code, as added by this section.

21 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such
22 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:
“7509. Medical certification by trusted agents.”.

23 **SEC. 311. ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.**

24 Not later than April 1, 2016, the Commandant of the
25 Coast Guard shall conclude the Atlantic Coast Port Access

1 Route Study and submit the results of such study to the
2 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
3 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
4 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

5 **SEC. 312. CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR REC-**
6 **REATIONAL VESSELS.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department in
9 which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations
10 that—

11 (1) make certificates of documentation for rec-
12 reational vessels effective for 5 years; and

13 (2) require the owner of such a vessel—

14 (A) to notify the Coast Guard of each
15 change in the information on which the
16 issuance of the certificate of documentation is
17 based, that occurs before the expiration of the
18 certificate; and

19 (B) apply for a new certificates of docu-
20 mentation for such a vessel if there is any such
21 change.

22 **SEC. 313. PROGRAM GUIDELINES.**

23 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
24 ment this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

1 (1) develop guidelines to implement the pro-
2 gram authorized under section 304(a) of the Coast
3 Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006
4 (Public Law 109–241), including specific actions to
5 ensure the future availability of able and
6 credentialed United States licensed and unlicensed
7 seafarers including—

8 (A) incentives to encourage partnership
9 agreements with operators of foreign-flag ves-
10 sels that carry liquified natural gas, that pro-
11 vide no less than one training billet per vessel
12 for United States merchant mariners in order
13 to meet minimum mandatory sea service re-
14 quirements;

15 (B) development of appropriate training
16 curricula for use by public and private maritime
17 training institutions to meet all United States
18 merchant mariner license, certification, and
19 document laws and requirements under the
20 International Convention on Standards of
21 Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for
22 Seafarers, 1978; and

23 (C) steps to promote greater outreach and
24 awareness of additional job opportunities for

1 sea service veterans of the United States Armed
2 Forces; and

3 (2) submit such guidelines to the Committee
4 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
5 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

7 **SEC. 314. REPEALS.**

8 (a) REPEALS, MERCHANT MARINE ACT, 1936.—Sec-
9 tions 601 through 606, 608 through 611, 613 through
10 616, 802, and 809 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46
11 U.S.C. 53101 note) are repealed.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 575 of
13 title 46, United States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in section 57501, by striking “titles V and
15 VI” and inserting “title V”; and

16 (2) in section 57531(a), by striking “titles V
17 and VI” and inserting “title V”.

18 (c) TRANSFER FROM MERCHANT MARINE ACT,
19 1936.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 801 of the Merchant
21 Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note) is—

22 (A) redesignated as section 57522 of title
23 46, United States Code, and transferred to ap-
24 pear after section 57521 of such title; and

1 (B) as so redesignated and transferred, is
2 amended—

3 (i) by striking so much as precedes
4 the first sentence and inserting the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 57522. Books and records, balance sheets, and in-
7 spection and auditing”;**

8 (ii) by striking “the provision of title
9 VI or VII of this Act” and inserting “this
10 chapter”;

11 (iii) by striking “That the provisions”
12 and all that follows through “Commission;
13 (2)”;

14 (iv) by redesignating clauses (3) and
15 (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

16 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
17 chapter 575, of title 46, United States Code, is
18 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
19 tion 57521 the following:

“57522. Books and records, balance sheets, and inspection and auditing.”.

20 (d) REPEALS, TITLE 46, U.S.C.—Section 8103 of
21 title 46, United States Code, is amended in subsections
22 (c) and (d) by striking “or operating” each place it ap-
23 pears.

1 **TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME**
2 **COMMISSION**

3 **SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 46, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“§ 308. Authorization of appropriations**

8 “There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fed-
9 eral Maritime Commission \$24,700,000 for each of fiscal
10 years 2016 and 2017 for the activities of the Commission
11 authorized under this chapter and subtitle IV.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
13 ter 3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by add-
14 ing at the end the following:

 “308. Authorization of appropriations.”.

15 **SEC. 402. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN.**

16 Section 301(c)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code,
17 is amended—

18 (1) in clause (ii) by striking “units, but only
19 after consultation with the other Commissioners;”
20 and inserting “units (with such appointments sub-
21 ject to the approval of the Commission);”;

22 (2) in clause (iv) by striking “and” at the end;

23 (3) in clause (v) by striking the period at the
24 end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(vi) prepare and submit to the Presi-
3 dent and Congress requests for appropria-
4 tions for the Commission (with such re-
5 quests subject to the approval of the Com-
6 mission).”.

7 **SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON AWARDS.**

8 Section 307 of title 46, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) by striking “The Federal Maritime Commis-
11 sion” and inserting the following:

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Maritime Commis-
13 sion”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
16 the Federal Maritime Commission may not expend any
17 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it to
18 issue an award, prize, commendation, or other honor to
19 a non-Federal entity.”.

20 **TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS**

21 **SEC. 501. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN**
22 **MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.**

23 (a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant
24 of the Coast Guard may convey all right, title, and interest
25 of the United States in and to the covered property, upon

1 payment to the United States of the fair market value of
2 the covered property.

3 (b) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The County of
4 Marin, California shall have the right of first refusal with
5 respect to purchase of the covered property under this sec-
6 tion.

7 (c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal descrip-
8 tion of the covered property shall be determined by a sur-
9 vey satisfactory to the Commandant.

10 (d) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value
11 of the covered property shall—

12 (1) be determined by appraisal; and

13 (2) be subject to the approval of the Com-
14 mandant.

15 (e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The responsibility for
16 all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate
17 transaction and environmental documentation costs, asso-
18 ciated with a conveyance under this section shall be deter-
19 mined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

20 (f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The
21 Commandant may require such additional terms and con-
22 ditions in connection with a conveyance under this section
23 as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable
24 to protect the interests of the United States.

1 (g) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds received
2 by the United States in a conveyance under this section
3 shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund es-
4 tablished by section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

5 (h) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section,
6 the term “covered property” means the approximately 32
7 acres of real property (including all improvements located
8 on the property) that are—

9 (1) located at Station Point Reyes in Marin
10 County, California;

11 (2) under the administrative control of the
12 Coast Guard; and

13 (3) described as “Parcel A, Tract 1”, “Parcel
14 B, Tract 2”, “Parcel C”, and “Parcel D” in the
15 Declaration of Taking (Civil No. C-71-1245 SC)
16 filed June 28, 1971, in the United States District
17 Court for the Northern District of California.

18 **SEC. 502. ELIMINATION OF REPORTS.**

19 (a) DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.—Section 421 of
20 the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of
21 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended by striking sub-
22 section (d).

23 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES ON LIMITS TO LIABILITY.—
24 Section 603(c)(3) of the Coast Guard and Maritime
25 Transportation Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 2704 note) is

1 amended by striking “on an annual basis.” and inserting
2 “not later than January 30 of the year following each year
3 in which occurs an oil discharge from a vessel or nonvessel
4 source that results or is likely to result in removal costs
5 and damages (as those terms are defined in section 1001
6 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701)) that
7 exceed liability limits established under section 1004 of the
8 Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2704).”.

9 (c) INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1972.—The
10 International Bridge Act of 1972 is amended by striking
11 section 11 (33 U.S.C. 535h).

12 **SEC. 503. VESSEL DOCUMENTATION.**

13 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
14 ment this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
15 States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
16 and infrastructure of the House and the Committee on
17 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a
18 description of actions that could be taken to—

19 (1) improve the efficiency of performance of the
20 functions currently carried out by the National Ves-
21 sel Documentation Center, including by—

22 (A) transferring such functions to Coast
23 Guard headquarters; and

1 (B) reassigning Coast Guard personnel to
2 better meet the Coast Guard's vessel docu-
3 mentation mission; and

4 (2) strengthen the review of compliance with
5 United States ownership requirements for vessels
6 documented under the laws of the United States.

7 **SEC. 504. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN**
8 **TOK, ALASKA.**

9 (a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant
10 of the Coast Guard may convey all right, title, and interest
11 of the United States in and to the covered property, upon
12 payment to the United States of the fair market value of
13 the covered property.

14 (b) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The Tanana Chiefs'
15 Conference shall have the right of first refusal with respect
16 to purchase of the covered property under this section.

17 (c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal descrip-
18 tion of the covered property shall be determined by a sur-
19 vey satisfactory to the Commandant.

20 (d) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value
21 of the covered property shall be—

22 (1) determined by appraisal; and

23 (2) subject to the approval of the Commandant.

24 (e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The responsibility for
25 all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate

1 transaction and environmental documentation costs, asso-
2 ciated with a conveyance under this section shall be deter-
3 mined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

4 (f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The
5 Commandant may require such additional terms and con-
6 ditions in connection with a conveyance under this section
7 as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable
8 to protect the interests of the United States.

9 (g) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds received
10 by the United States from a conveyance under this section
11 shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund es-
12 tablished under section 687 of title 14, United States
13 Code.

14 (h) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
16 “covered property” means the approximately 3.25
17 acres of real property (including all improvements
18 located on the property) that are—

19 (A) located in Tok, Alaska;

20 (B) under the administrative control of the
21 Coast Guard; and

22 (C) described in paragraph (2).

23 (2) DESCRIPTION.—The property described in
24 this paragraph is the following:

1 (A) Lots 11, 12 and 13, block “G”, Sec-
2 ond Addition to Hartsell Subdivision, Section
3 20, Township 18 North, Range 13 East, Cop-
4 per River Meridian, Alaska as appears by Plat
5 No. 72-39 filed in the Office of the Recorder
6 for the Fairbanks Recording District of Alaska,
7 bearing seal dated 25 September 1972, all con-
8 taining approximately 1.25 acres and commonly
9 known as 2-PLEX – Jackie Circle, Units A and
10 B.

11 (B) Beginning at a point being the SE cor-
12 ner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 24,
13 Township 18 North, Range 12 East, Copper
14 River Meridian, Alaska; thence running west-
15 erly along the south line of said SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the
16 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 260 feet; thence northerly parallel to the
17 east line of said SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 335 feet;
18 thence easterly parallel to the south line 260
19 feet; then south 335 feet along the east bound-
20 ary of Section 24 to the point of beginning; all
21 containing approximately 2.0 acres and com-
22 monly known as 4-PLEX – West “C” and Wil-
23 low, Units A, B, C and D.

1 **SEC. 505. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES.**

2 The Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Trans-
3 portation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in section 610, by—

6 (A) striking the section enumerator and
7 heading and inserting the following:

8 **“SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT**
9 **LAKES.”;**

10 (B) striking “existing boundaries and any
11 future expanded boundaries of the Thunder
12 Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Under-
13 water Preserve” and inserting “boundaries of
14 any national marine sanctuary that preserves
15 shipwrecks or maritime heritage in the Great
16 Lakes”; and

17 (C) by inserting before the period at the
18 end the following: “, unless the designation doc-
19 uments for such sanctuary do not allow taking
20 up or discharging ballast water in such sanc-
21 tuary”; and

22 (2) in the table of contents in section 2, by
23 striking the item relating to such section and insert-
24 ing the following:

“Sec. 610. Safe vessel operation in the Great Lakes.”.

1 **SEC. 506. USE OF VESSEL SALE PROCEEDS.**

2 (a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United
3 States shall conduct an audit of funds credited in each
4 fiscal year after fiscal year 2004 to the Vessel Operations
5 Revolving Fund that are attributable to the sale of obso-
6 lete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that
7 were scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and
8 57104 of title 46, United States Code, including—

9 (1) a complete accounting of all vessel sale pro-
10 ceeds attributable to the sale of obsolete vessels in
11 the National Defense Reserve Fleet that were
12 scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and
13 57104 of title 46, United States Code, in each fiscal
14 year after fiscal year 2004;

15 (2) the annual apportionment of proceeds ac-
16 counted for under paragraph (1) among the uses au-
17 thorized under section 308704 of title 54, United
18 States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year
19 2004, including—

20 (A) for National Maritime Heritage
21 Grants, including a list of all annual National
22 Maritime Heritage Grant grant and subgrant
23 awards that identifies the respective grant and
24 subgrant recipients and grant and subgrant
25 amounts;

1 (B) for the preservation and presentation
2 to the public of maritime heritage property of
3 the Maritime Administration;

4 (C) to the United States Merchant Marine
5 Academy and State maritime academies, includ-
6 ing a list of annual awards; and

7 (D) for the acquisition, repair, recondi-
8 tioning, or improvement of vessels in the Na-
9 tional Defense Reserve Fleet; and

10 (3) an accounting of proceeds, if any, attrib-
11 utable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the National
12 Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or sold
13 under sections 57102, 57103, and 57104 of title 46,
14 United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal
15 year 2004, that were expended for uses not author-
16 ized under section 308704 of title 54, United States
17 Code.

18 (b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180
19 days after the date of enactment this Act, the Comptroller
20 General shall submit the audit conducted in subsection (a)
21 to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on
22 Natural Resources, and the Committee on Transportation
23 and Infrastructure of the House and the Committee on
24 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 507. FISHING VESSEL AND FISH TENDER VESSEL CER-**
2 **TIFICATION.**

3 Section 4503 of title 46, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
6 following: “Subsection (a) does not apply to a fish-
7 ing vessel or fish tender vessel described in sub-
8 section (d)(6), if the vessel complies with an alter-
9 native safety compliance program established under
10 that subsection for such a vessel.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(6) The Secretary shall establish an alternative safe-
14 ty compliance program for fishing vessels or fish tender
15 vessels (or both) that are at least 50 feet overall in length,
16 and not more than 79 feet overall in length, and built after
17 July 1, 2013.”.

18 **SEC. 508. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COST COM-**
19 **PARISON.**

20 (a) COST COMPARISON.—The Secretary of the de-
21 partment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall seek
22 to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy
23 of Sciences under which the Academy, by no later than
24 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall
25 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
26 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
2 Senate a comparison of the costs incurred by the Federal
3 Government for each of the following alternatives:

4 (1) Transferring the Polar Sea to a non-govern-
5 mental entity at no cost, and leasing back the vessel
6 beginning on the date on which the Coast Guard
7 certifies that the vessel is capable of the breaking
8 out and missions described in subsection (c)(1).

9 (2) The reactivation and operation by the Coast
10 Guard of the Polar Sea to an operational level at
11 which the vessel is capable of such breaking out and
12 missions.

13 (3) Acquiring and operating a new icebreaker
14 through the Coast Guard's acquisition process that
15 is capable of such breaking out and missions.

16 (4) Construction by a non-Federal entity of an
17 icebreaker capable of such breaking out and mis-
18 sions, that will be leased by the Federal Government
19 and operated using a Coast Guard crew.

20 (5) Construction by a non-Federal entity of an
21 icebreaker capable of such breaking out and mis-
22 sions, that will be leased by the Federal Government
23 and operated by a crew of non-Federal employees.

1 (6) The acquisition of services from a non-Fed-
2 eral entity to perform such breaking out and mis-
3 sions.

4 (b) INCLUDED COSTS.—For purposes of subsection
5 (a), the cost of each alternative includes costs incurred by
6 the Federal Government for—

7 (1) the lease or operation and maintenance of
8 the vessel concerned;

9 (2) disposal of such vessel at the end of the
10 useful life of the vessel;

11 (3) retirement and other benefits for Federal
12 employees who operate such vessel; and

13 (4) interest payments assumed to be incurred
14 for Federal capital expenditures.

15 (c) ASSUMPTIONS.—For purposes of comparing the
16 costs of such alternatives, the Academy shall assume
17 that—

18 (1) each vessel under consideration is—

19 (A) capable of breaking out of McMurdo
20 Station, and conducting Coast Guard missions
21 in the United States territory in the Arctic (as
22 that term is defined in section 112 of the Arctic
23 Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C.
24 4111)); and

25 (B) operated for a period of 20 years;

1 (2) the acquisition of services and the operation
2 of each vessel begin on the same date; and

3 (3) the periods for conducting Coast Guard
4 missions in the Arctic are of equal lengths.

5 **SEC. 509. PENALTY WAGES.**

6 (a) FOREIGN AND INTERCOASTAL VOYAGES.—Sec-
7 tion 10313(g) of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) by striking “all claims in a class action
11 suit by seamen” and inserting “each claim by
12 a seaman”; and

13 (B) by striking “the seamen” and inserting
14 “the seaman”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (3)—

16 (A) by striking “class action”; and

17 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, by
18 a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,” and
19 inserting “by the seaman”.

20 (b) COASTWISE VOYAGES.—Section 10504(c) of such
21 title is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) by striking “all claims in a class action
24 suit by seamen” and inserting “each claim by
25 a seaman”; and

1 (B) by striking “the seamen” and inserting
2 “the seaman”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (3)—

4 (A) by striking “class action”; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, by
6 a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,” and
7 inserting “by the seaman”.

8 **SEC. 510. RECOURSE FOR NONCITIZENS.**

9 Section 30104 of title 46, United States Code, is
10 amended—

11 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
12 the first sentence; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 section:

15 “(b) RESTRICTION ON RECOVERY FOR NON-
16 RESIDENT ALIENS EMPLOYED ON FOREIGN PASSENGER
17 VESSELS.—A claim for damages or expenses relating to
18 personal injury, illness, or death of a seaman who is a
19 citizen of a foreign nation, arising during or from the en-
20 gagement of the seaman by or for a passenger vessel duly
21 registered under the laws of a foreign nation, may not be
22 brought under the laws of the United States if—

23 “(1) such seaman was not a permanent resident
24 alien of the United States at the time the claim
25 arose;

1 “(2) the injury, illness, or death arose outside
2 the territorial waters of the United States; and

3 “(3) the seaman or the seaman’s personal rep-
4 resentative has or had a right to seek compensation
5 for the injury, illness, or death in, or under the laws
6 of—

7 “(A) the nation in which the vessel was
8 registered at the time the claim arose; or

9 “(B) the nation in which the seaman main-
10 tained citizenship or residency at the time the
11 claim arose.”.

Passed the House of Representatives May 18, 2015.

Attest:

Clerk.

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1987

AN ACT

To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes.