

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7659

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 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 air-
craft.

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 inter-
dictions.

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 procure-
ment.

Sec. 210. Authorization of certain support for Coast Guard Academy founda-
tions.

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. 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
3 Commandant 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
8 amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
10 striking “fiscal years 2022 and 2023” and inserting
11 “fiscal years 2025 and 2026”;

12 (2) in paragraph (1)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking
14 clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

1 “(i) \$11,287,500,000 for fiscal year 2025;

2 and

3 “(ii) \$11,851,875,000 for fiscal year

4 2026.”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking

6 “\$23,456,000” and inserting “\$25,570,000”;

7 and

8 (C) in subparagraph (C) by striking

9 “\$24,353,000” and inserting “\$26,848,500”;

10 (3) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking clauses (i)

11 and (ii) and inserting the following:

12 “(i) \$3,477,600,000 for fiscal year 2025;

13 and

14 “(ii) \$3,651,480,000 for fiscal year

15 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.”;

20 and

21 (5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the

22 following:

23 “(4) For retired pay, including the payment of

24 obligations otherwise chargeable to lapsed appropria-

25 tions for purposes of retired pay, payments under

1 the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan
2 and the Survivor Benefit Plan, payment for career
3 status bonuses, payment of continuation pay under
4 section 356 of title 37, concurrent receipts, combat-
5 related special compensation, and payments for med-
6 ical care of retired personnel and their dependents
7 under chapter 55 of title 10, \$1,210,840,000 for fis-
8 cal year 2025.''.

9 **SEC. 102. SHORESIDE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES**
10 **AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.**

11 (a) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—Of the amounts
12 authorized to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A)
13 of title 14, United States Code—

14 (1) for fiscal year 2025, \$36,300,000 is author-
15 ized to modernize the Coast Guard's information
16 technology systems, of which \$11,000,000 is author-
17 ized to fund the acquisition, development, and imple-
18 mentation of a new credentialing system for the
19 Merchant Mariner credentialing program; and

20 (2) for fiscal year 2026, \$36,300,000 is author-
21 ized to modernize the Coast Guard's information
22 technology systems.

23 (b) SHORESIDE INFRASTRUCTURE.—Of the amounts
24 authorized to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A)
25 of title 14, United States Code—

1 (1) for fiscal year 2025, \$500,000,000 is au-
2 thorized to fund maintenance, construction, and re-
3 pairs for Coast Guard shoreside infrastructure, of
4 which—

5 (A) \$225,000,000 is authorized for the
6 purposes of improvements to facilities at the
7 United States Coast Guard Training Center
8 Cape May in Cape May, New Jersey;

9 (B) \$10,000,000 is authorized to fund the
10 creation of an infrastructure development plan
11 for the Coast Guard Academy in New London,
12 Connecticut;

13 (C) \$50,000,000 is authorized to complete
14 repairs and improvements of Chase Hall at the
15 Coast Guard Academy in New London, Con-
16 necticut, including remediation of asbestos,
17 lead, and mold and upgrading the electric outlet
18 availability and storage space in student rooms,
19 and making changes to house not more than 2
20 Officer Candidates in a room;

21 (D) \$70,000,000 is authorized for the pur-
22 poses of planning, designing, and building a
23 floating drydock at the United States Coast
24 Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland;

1 (E) \$40,000,000 is authorized for the pur-
2 poses of planning, designing, and building a
3 hangar to house, at a minimum, 2 HC-130J
4 Super Hercules aircraft at Air Station Barbers
5 Point in Kapolei, Hawaii; and

6 (F) \$90,000,000 is authorized to fund wa-
7 terfront improvements of Coast Guard Base Se-
8 attle; and

9 (2) for fiscal year 2026, \$600,000,000 is au-
10 thorized to fund maintenance, construction, and re-
11 pairs for Coast Guard shoreside infrastructure, of
12 which—

13 (A) \$125,000,000 is authorized for the
14 purposes of improvements to facilities at the
15 United States Coast Guard Training Center
16 Cape May in Cape May, New Jersey;

17 (B) \$100,000,000 is authorized to execute
18 the infrastructure development plan for the
19 Coast Guard Academy in New London, Con-
20 necticut developed in paragraph (1)(C);

21 (C) \$100,000,000 is authorized for the
22 purposes of planning, designing, and building a
23 floating drydock at the United States Coast
24 Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland;

(D) \$40,000,000 is authorized for the purposes of planning, designing, and building a hangar to house at a minimum 2 HC-130J Super Hercules aircraft at Air Station Barbers Point in Kapolei, Hawaii; and

(E) \$90,000,000 is authorized to fund waterfront improvements of Coast Guard Base Seattle.

**SEC. 103. AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS FOR ACQUISITION OF
ADDITIONAL VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT.**

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2025.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A) of title 14, United States Code, for fiscal year 2025—

(1) \$138,500,000 is authorized for the acquisition or procurement of 1 missionized HC-130J Super Hercules aircraft;

(2) \$36,000,000 is authorized for the service life extension program and any necessary upgrades of the 47-foot Motor Life Boat; and

(3) \$216,000,000 is authorized for the acquisition of 2 Fast Response Cutters.

(b) FISCAL YEAR 2026.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A) of title 14, United States Code, for fiscal year 2026—

1 (1) \$1,200,000,000 is authorized for the acqui-
2 sition of a Polar Security Cutter;

3 (2) \$1,100,000,000 is authorized for the acqui-
4 sition of 2 Offshore Patrol Cutters;

5 (3) \$138,500,000 is authorized for the acquisi-
6 tion or procurement of 1 missionized HC-130J
7 Super Hercules aircraft; and

8 (4) \$153,500,000 is authorized to outfit and as-
9 semble 5 MH-60T Jayhawk aircrafts.

10 **SEC. 104. AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND**
11 **SERVICES.**

12 (a) FISCAL YEAR 2025.—Of the amounts authorized
13 to be appropriated under section 4902(1)(A) of title 14,
14 United States Code, for fiscal year 2025—

15 (1) \$11,978,000 is authorized to fund addi-
16 tional recruiting personnel and offices for the Coast
17 Guard Recruiting Command;

18 (2) \$9,000,000 is authorized to enhance Coast
19 Guard recruiting capabilities; and

20 (3) \$25,000,000 is authorized for the imple-
21 mentation of each directed action outlined in enclo-
22 sure 1 of the memorandum of the Commandant ti-
23 tled “Commandant’s Directed Actions-Accountability
24 and Transparency”, dated November 27, 2023.

1 (b) FISCAL YEAR 2026.—Of the amounts authorized
2 to be appropriated under section 4902(1)(A) of title 14,
3 United States Code, \$35,000,000 is authorized for the im-
4 plementation of each directed action outlined in enclosure
5 1 of the memorandum of the Commandant titled “Com-
6 mandant’s Directed Actions-Accountability and Trans-
7 parency”, dated November 27, 2023.

8 **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH**
9 **AND TRAINING.**

10 Section 4904 of title 14, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “fiscal years
13 2022 and 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2025
14 and 2026”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b) by striking “fiscal years
16 2022 and 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2025
17 and 2026”.

18 **TITLE II—COAST GUARD**
19 **Subtitle A—Organization and**
20 **Authorities**

21 **SEC. 201. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTE-**
22 **GRATORS.**

23 Section 1105 of title 14, United States Code, is
24 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR DEFINED.—In
2 this section, the term ‘lead systems integrator’ has the
3 meaning given such term in section 805(c) of the National
4 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public
5 Law 109–163).”.

6 **SEC. 202. MINOR CONSTRUCTION INCREASE.**

7 Section 903(d)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is
8 amended by striking “\$1,500,000” and inserting
9 “\$2,000,000”.

10 **SEC. 203. TSUNAMI EVACUATION PLANS.**

11 (a) TSUNAMI EVACUATION PLANS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant,
14 in consultation with the Administrator of the Na-
15 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and
16 the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-
17 agement Agency, shall establish location specific tsu-
18 nami evacuation plans for each unit and sector of
19 the Coast Guard that has facilities, personnel, or as-
20 sets located within areas—

21 (A) designated by the Administrator of the
22 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
23 tion as high risk or very high risk of a United
24 States tsunami hazard; and

1 (B) that are located inside a tsunami inun-
2 dation zone.

3 (2) EVACUATION PLANS.—In establishing the
4 evacuation plans under paragraph (1), the Com-
5 mandant shall ensure that such plans—

6 (A) are included in the emergency action
7 plans for each unit or sector located inside of
8 a tsunami inundation zone;

9 (B) designate an evacuation route to an
10 assembly area located outside of a tsunami in-
11 undation zone;

12 (C) include a map or diagram of all tsu-
13 nami inundation zone evacuation routes;

14 (D) include evacuation routes for all Coast
15 Guard personnel and dependents of such per-
16 sonnel living in Coast Guard housing;

17 (E) are feasible for all servicemembers and
18 dependents of such servicemembers present on
19 Coast Guard property or living in Coast Guard
20 provided housing;

21 (F) include procedures to begin evacu-
22 ations once a major seismic event is detected;

23 (G) include evacuation plans for air and
24 water assets that do not impinge on the safety
25 of human life;

1 (H) are able to be completely executed
2 within 15 minutes of detection of a seismic
3 event or, if not possible within 15 minutes,
4 within a reasonable timeframe;

5 (I) are able to be completely executed by
6 servicemembers on foot from any location with-
7 in the tsunami inundation zone;

8 (J) are exercised biennially by each unit
9 and sector located in a tsunami inundation
10 zone; and

11 (K) are evaluated by leadership at each
12 unit and sector located in a tsunami inundation
13 zone annually.

14 (3) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the evacu-
15 ation plans under paragraph (1), the Commandant
16 shall consult local governments.

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
18 of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit
19 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
20 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
21 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
22 and provide a briefing to each such Committee on, a re-
23 port on—

1 (1) the status of the implementation and feasi-
2 bility of the plans established under subsection
3 (a)(1);

4 (2) a risk evaluation and vulnerability assess-
5 ment of the infrastructure and assets located within
6 tsunami inundation zones;

7 (3) the need for vertical evacuation structures
8 for units and sectors in which an evacuation of a
9 tsunami inundation zone cannot be completed on
10 foot within 15 minutes of the detection of a seismic
11 event; and

12 (4) whether the plans established under sub-
13 section (a)(1) achieve the purpose to protect human
14 life and ensure the ability for the Coast Guard to
15 provide search and rescue operations following a tsu-
16 nami event in the area.

17 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) SEISMIC EVENT.—The term “seismic event”
19 means an earthquake, volcanic eruption, submarine
20 landslide, coastal rockfall, or other event with the
21 magnitude to cause a tsunami.

22 (2) TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONE.—The term
23 “tsunami inundation zone” means an area of inland
24 flooding modeled, predicted, or forecasted as a po-
25 tential result of a tsunami or seismic event.

1 (3) VERTICAL EVACUATION STRUCTURE.—The
 2 term “vertical evacuation structure” means an ele-
 3 vated structure above the tsunami inundation zone
 4 designated as a place of refuge from flood waters.

5 **SEC. 204. SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAMS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of
 7 title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 8 end the following:

9 **“§ 1138. Service life extension programs**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Requirements for a Level 1 or
 11 Level 2 acquisition project or program under sections
 12 1131 through 1134 shall not apply to an acquisition by
 13 the Coast Guard that is a service life extension program.

14 “(b) SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAM DE-
 15 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘service life extension
 16 program’ means a capital investment that is solely in-
 17 tended to extend the service life and address obsolescence
 18 of components or systems of a particular capability or
 19 asset.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
 21 ter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by in-
 22 serting after the item relating to section 1137 the fol-
 23 lowing:

“1138. Service life extension programs.”.

1 **SEC. 205. MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS IN COAST GUARD**
2 **SECTOR FOR PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN IS-**
3 **LANDS.**

4 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Com-
6 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
7 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
8 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report con-
9 taining—

10 (1) an overview of the maritime domain aware-
11 ness in the area of responsibility of the Coast Guard
12 sector responsible for Puerto Rico and the United
13 States Virgin Islands, including—

14 (A) the average volume of known maritime
15 traffic that transited the area during fiscal
16 years 2020 through 2023;

17 (B) current sensor platforms deployed by
18 such sector to monitor illicit activity occurring
19 at sea in such area;

20 (C) the number of illicit activity incidents
21 at sea in such area that the sector responded to
22 during fiscal years 2020 through 2023;

23 (D) an estimate of the volume of traffic
24 engaged in illicit activity at sea in such area
25 and the type and description of any vessels used
26 to carry out illicit activities that such sector re-

1 sponded to during fiscal years 2020 through
2 2023; and

3 (E) the maritime domain awareness re-
4 quirements to effectively meet the mission of
5 such sector;

6 (2) a description of current actions taken by the
7 Coast Guard to partner with Federal, regional,
8 State, and local entities to meet the maritime do-
9 main awareness needs of such area;

10 (3) a description of any gaps in maritime do-
11 main awareness within the area of responsibility of
12 such sector resulting from an inability to meet the
13 enduring maritime domain awareness requirements
14 of the sector or adequately respond to maritime dis-
15 order, including illicit drug and migrant activity;

16 (4) an identification of current technology and
17 assets the Coast Guard has to mitigate the gaps
18 identified in paragraph (3);

19 (5) an identification of capabilities needed to
20 mitigate such gaps, including any capabilities the
21 Coast Guard currently possesses that can be de-
22 ployed to the sector;

23 (6) an identification of technology and assets
24 the Coast Guard does not currently possess and are
25 needed to acquire in order to address such gaps; and

1 (7) an identification of any financial obstacles
2 that prevent the Coast Guard from deploying exist-
3 ing commercially available sensor technology to ad-
4 dress such gaps.

5 **SEC. 206. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON**
6 **MONTHLY DRUG AND MIGRANT INTERDIC-**
7 **TIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11269 of the Don Young
9 Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–
10 263) is—

11 (1) transferred to appear at the end of sub-
12 chapter II of chapter 5 of title 14, United States
13 Code;

14 (2) redesignated as section 529; and

15 (3) amended—

16 (A) by striking the section enumerator and
17 heading and inserting the following:

18 **“§ 529. Public availability of information on monthly**
19 **drug and migrant interdictions”;**

20 (B) by striking “Not later than” and in-
21 serting the following:

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”;

23 (C) by inserting “drug and” before “mi-
24 grant interdictions”; and

25 (D) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(b) CONTENTS.—In making information about
2 interdictions publicly available under subsection (a), the
3 Commandant shall include a description of the following:

4 “(1) The number of incidents in which drugs
5 were interdicted, the amount and type of drugs
6 interdicted, and the Coast Guard sectors and geo-
7 graphic areas of responsibility in which such inci-
8 dents occurred.

9 “(2) The number of incidents in which mi-
10 grants were interdicted, the number of migrants
11 interdicted, and the Coast Guard sectors and geo-
12 graphic areas of responsibility in which such inci-
13 dents occurred.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

15 (1) The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14,
16 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
17 the item relating to section 528 the following:

“529. Public availability of information on monthly drug and migrant interdic-
tions.”.

18 (2) The table of sections in section 11001(b) of
19 the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of
20 2022 (division K of Public Law 117–263) is amend-
21 ed by striking the item relating to section 11269.

1 **SEC. 207. REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF UNMANNED SYS-**
2 **TEMS CAPABILITIES OFFICE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall sub-
5 mit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
6 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
7 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
8 a report that outlines a plan for establishing an unmanned
9 systems capabilities office within the Coast Guard respon-
10 sible for the acquisition and development of unmanned
11 system and counter-unmanned system technologies and to
12 expand the capabilities of the Coast Guard with respect
13 to such technologies.

14 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required under sub-
15 section (a) shall include the following:

16 (1) A management strategy for the acquisition,
17 development, and deployment of unmanned system
18 and counter-unmanned system technologies.

19 (2) A service-wide coordination strategy to syn-
20 chronize and integrate efforts across the Coast
21 Guard in order to—

22 (A) support the primary duties of the
23 Coast Guard pursuant to section 102 of title
24 14, United States Code; and

25 (B) pursue expanded research, develop-
26 ment, testing, and evaluation opportunities and

1 funding to expand and accelerate identification
2 and transition of unmanned system and
3 counter-unmanned system technologies.

4 (3) The identification of contracting and acqui-
5 sition authorities needed to expedite the development
6 and deployment of unmanned system and counter-
7 unmanned system technologies.

8 (4) A detailed list of commercially available un-
9 manned system and counter-unmanned system tech-
10 nologies with capabilities determined to be useful for
11 the Coast Guard.

12 (5) A cross-agency collaboration plan to engage
13 with the Department of Homeland Security, the De-
14 partment of Defense, and other relevant agencies to
15 identify common requirements and opportunities to
16 partner in acquiring, contracting, and sustaining un-
17 manned system and counter-unmanned system capa-
18 bilities.

19 (6) Opportunities to obtain and share un-
20 manned system data from government and commer-
21 cial sources to improve maritime domain awareness.

22 (7) The development of a concept of operations
23 for a data ecosystem that supports and integrates
24 unmanned system and counter-unmanned system
25 technologies with key enablers, including enterprise

1 communications networks, data storage and manage-
2 ment, artificial intelligence and machine learning
3 tools, and information sharing and dissemination ca-
4 pabilities.

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) COUNTER-UNMANNED SYSTEM.—The term
7 “counter-unmanned system” means a system or de-
8 vice capable of lawfully and safely disabling, dis-
9 rupting, or seizing control of an unmanned system,
10 including a counter-UAS system (as such term is de-
11 fined in section 44801 of title 49, United States
12 Code).

13 (2) UNMANNED SYSTEM.—The term “un-
14 manned system” means an unmanned surface, un-
15 dersea, or aircraft and associated elements (includ-
16 ing communication links and the components that
17 control the unmanned system) that are required for
18 the operator to operate the system safely and effi-
19 ciently, including an unmanned aircraft system (as
20 such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49,
21 United States Code).

22 **SEC. 208. GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER.**

23 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Com-
25 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House

1 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
2 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategy de-
3 tailing how the Coast Guard will complete design and con-
4 struction of the Great Lakes icebreaker at least as capable
5 as the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw (WLBB-30) in not
6 more than 3 years after funding is provided for such ice-
7 breaker.

8 **SEC. 209. CONSIDERATION OF LIFE-CYCLE COST ESTI-**
9 **MATES FOR ACQUISITION AND PROCURE-**
10 **MENT.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of
12 title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding
13 at the end the following:

14 **“§ 1139. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for**
15 **acquisition and procurement**

16 “In carrying out the acquisition and procurement of
17 vessels and aircraft, the Secretary of the department in
18 which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the
19 Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall consider the life-
20 cycle cost estimates of vessels and aircraft, as applicable,
21 during the design and evaluation processes to the max-
22 imum extent practicable.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
24 ter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by in-

1 serting after the item relating to section 1138 (as added
2 by this Act) the following:

“1139. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procure-
ment.”.

3 **SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN SUPPORT FOR**
4 **COAST GUARD ACADEMY FOUNDATIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 19 of title
6 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
7 the following:

8 **“§ 1907. Authorization of certain support for Coast**
9 **Guard Academy foundations**

10 “(a) AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsection (b) and
11 pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the
12 department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the
13 Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy may author-
14 ize a covered foundation to use, on an unreimbursed basis,
15 facilities or equipment of the Coast Guard Academy.

16 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—Use of facilities or equipment
17 under subsection (a) may be provided only if such use has
18 been reviewed and approved by an attorney of the Coast
19 Guard and only if such use—

20 “(1) is without any liability of the United
21 States to the covered foundation;

22 “(2) does not affect the ability of any official or
23 employee of the Coast Guard, or any member of the

1 armed forces, to carry out any responsibility or duty
2 in a fair and objective manner;

3 “(3) does not compromise the integrity or ap-
4 pearance of integrity of any program of the Coast
5 Guard, or any individual involved in such a program;

6 “(4) does not include the participation of any
7 cadet other than participation in an honor guard at
8 an event of the covered foundation; and

9 “(5) complies with any applicable ethics regula-
10 tions.

11 “(c) BRIEFING.—In any fiscal year during which the
12 Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy exercises the
13 authority under subsection (a), the Commandant of the
14 Coast Guard shall provide a briefing to the Committee on
15 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
17 and Transportation of the Senate not later than the last
18 day of that fiscal year regarding the number of events or
19 activities of a covered foundation supported by such exer-
20 cise during such fiscal year.

21 “(d) COVERED FOUNDATION DEFINED.—In this sec-
22 tion, the term ‘covered foundation’ means a charitable,
23 educational, or civic nonprofit organization under section
24 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that the
25 Secretary concerned determines operates exclusively to

1 support, with respect to a Service Academy, any of the
2 following:

3 “(1) Recruiting.

4 “(2) Parent or alumni development.

5 “(3) Academic, leadership, or character develop-
6 ment.

7 “(4) Institutional development.

8 “(5) Athletics.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
10 ter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by in-
11 serting after the item relating to section 1906 the fol-
12 lowing:

“1907. Authorization of certain support for Coast Guard Academy founda-
tions.”.

13 **SEC. 211. NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM.**

14 Section 316 of title 14, United States Code, is
15 amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “The Sec-
18 retary” and inserting “Except as provided in
19 paragraph (2), the Secretary”; and

20 (B) in paragraph (2) by striking “engi-
21 neering and design of a Museum” and inserting
22 “design of a Museum, and engineering, con-
23 struction administration, and quality assurance
24 services of a Museum”;

1 (2) by amending subsection (e)(2)(A) to read as
2 follows:

3 “(A) lease from the Association for Coast
4 Guard operations the Museum and properties owned
5 by the Association adjacent to the railroad tracks to
6 which the property on which the Museum is located
7 are adjacent; and”;

8 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(g) SERVICES.—With respect to the services related
11 to the construction, maintenance, and operation of the
12 Museum, the Commandant may—

13 “(1) solicit and accept services from nonprofit
14 entities, including the Association; and

15 “(2) enter into contracts or memorandums of
16 agreement with or make grants to the Association to
17 acquire such services.”.

18 **SEC. 212. REGULAR POLAR SECURITY CUTTER UPDATES.**

19 (a) REPORT.—

20 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60
21 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
22 Commandant shall submit to the Committee on
23 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
24 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
25 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report

1 on the status of acquisition of the first Polar Secu-
2 rity Cutter.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph
4 (1) shall include—

5 (A) a detailed timeline for the acquisition
6 process of the first Polar Security Cutter, in-
7 cluding expected milestones and projected com-
8 missioning date;

9 (B) an accounting of the previously appro-
10 priated funds spent to date on the Polar Secu-
11 rity Cutter Program, updated cost projections
12 for the first Polar Security Cutter, and projec-
13 tions for when additional funds will be required;

14 (C) potential factors and risks that could
15 further delay or imperil the completion of the
16 first Polar Security Cutter; and

17 (D) a review of the acquisition of the first
18 Polar Security Cutter to date, including factors
19 that led to substantial cost overruns and deliv-
20 ery delays.

21 (b) BRIEFINGS.—

22 (1) PROVISION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
23 60 days after the submission of the report under
24 subsection (a), and not less frequently than every 60
25 days thereafter, the Commandant shall provide to

1 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
3 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
4 Senate a briefing on the status of the Polar Security
5 Cutter acquisition process.

6 (2) TIMELINE.—The briefings under paragraph
7 (1) shall occur after any key milestone in the Polar
8 Security Cutter acquisition process, but not less fre-
9 quently than every 60 days.

10 (3) ELEMENTS.—Each briefing under para-
11 graph (1) shall include—

12 (A) a summary of acquisition progress
13 since the most recent previous briefing con-
14 ducted pursuant to paragraph (1);

15 (B) an updated timeline and budget esti-
16 mate for acquisition and building of pending
17 Polar Security Cutters; and

18 (C) an explanation of any delays or addi-
19 tional costs incurred in the acquisition progress.

20 (c) NOTIFICATIONS.—In addition to the briefings re-
21 quired under subsection (b), the Commandant shall notify
22 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
23 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
24 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate within
25 3 business days of any significant change to the scope or

1 funding level of the Polar Security Cutter acquisition
2 strategy of such change.

3 **SEC. 213. TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.**

4 Section 319(b)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is
5 amended by striking “2” and inserting “4”.

6 **SEC. 214. REPORT ON CONDITION OF MISSOURI RIVER**
7 **DAYBOARDS.**

8 (a) PROVISION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180
9 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
10 mandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
11 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
12 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
13 of the Senate a report on the condition of dayboards and
14 the placement of buoys on the Missouri River.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1)
16 shall include—

17 (1) a list of the most recent date on which each
18 dayboard and buoy was serviced by the Coast Guard;

19 (2) an overview of the plan of the Coast Guard
20 to systematically service each dayboard and buoy on
21 the Missouri River; and

22 (3) assigned points of contact.

1 **SEC. 215. DELEGATION OF PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY**
2 **AUTHORITIES IN ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY.**

3 Section 70032 of title 46, United States Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **“§ 70032. Saint Lawrence Seaway**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
7 (b), the authority granted to the Secretary under sections
8 70001, 70002, 70003, 70004, and 70011 may not be dele-
9 gated with respect to the Saint Lawrence Seaway to any
10 agency other than the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Sea-
11 way Development Corporation. Any other authority grant-
12 ed the Secretary under subchapters I through III and this
13 subchapter shall be delegated by the Secretary to the
14 Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Cor-
15 poration to the extent the Secretary determines such dele-
16 gation is necessary for the proper operation of the Saint
17 Lawrence Seaway.

18 “(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of the department
19 in which the Coast Guard is operating, after consultation
20 with the Secretary of Transportation, or the head of an
21 agency to which the Secretary has delegated the authori-
22 ties in subsection (a), may—

23 “(1) issue and enforce special orders in accord-
24 ance with section 70002;

25 “(2) establish water or waterfront safety zones,
26 or other measures, for limited, controlled, or condi-

1 tional access and activity when necessary for the
2 protection of any vessel structure, waters, or shore
3 area, as permitted in section 70011(b)(2); and

4 “(3) take actions for port, harbor, and coastal
5 facility security in accordance with section 70116.”.

6 **SEC. 216. STUDY ON COAST GUARD MISSIONS.**

7 (a) STUDY.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant
10 shall seek to enter into an agreement with a feder-
11 ally funded research and development center with
12 relevant expertise under which such center shall con-
13 duct an assessment of the operational capabilities
14 and ability of the Coast Guard to conduct the pri-
15 mary duties of the Coast Guard under section 102
16 of title 14, United States Code, and missions under
17 section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
18 (6 U.S.C. 468).

19 (2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the assess-
20 ment required under paragraph (1), the federally
21 funded research and development center selected
22 under such subsection shall, with respect to the pri-
23 mary duties and missions described in paragraph
24 (1), include the following:

1 (A) An analysis of the extent to which the
2 Coast Guard is able to effectively carry out
3 such duties and missions.

4 (B) Recommendations for the Coast Guard
5 to more effectively carry out such duties and
6 missions, in light of manpower and asset con-
7 straints.

8 (C) Recommendations of which such duties
9 and missions should be transferred to other de-
10 partments or eliminated in light of the man-
11 power and asset constraints of the Coast
12 Guard.

13 (D) An analysis of the benefits and draw-
14 backs of transferring the Coast Guard or any of
15 the duties and missions of the Coast Guard to
16 other appropriate Federal departments or inde-
17 pendent agencies.

18 (b) ASSESSMENT TO COMMANDANT.—Not later than
19 1 year after the date on which Commandant enters into
20 an agreement under section (a), the federally funded re-
21 search and development center selected under such sub-
22 section shall submit to the Commandant the assessment
23 required under subsection (a).

24 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
2 receipt of the assessment under subsection (b), the
3 Commandant shall submit to the Committee on
4 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
5 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
7 that includes recommendations included in the as-
8 sessment to strengthen the ability of the Coast
9 Guard to carry out such duties and missions.

10 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
11 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

12 (A) The assessment received by the Com-
13 mandant under subsection (b).

14 (B) For each recommendation included in
15 the such assessment—

16 (i) an assessment by the Commandant
17 of the feasibility and advisability of imple-
18 menting such recommendation; and

19 (ii) if the Commandant of the Coast
20 Guard considers the implementation of
21 such recommendation feasible and advis-
22 able, a description of the actions taken, or
23 to be taken, to implement such rec-
24 ommendation.

1 **SEC. 217. ADDITIONAL PRIBILOF ISLAND TRANSITION COM-**
2 **PLETION ACTIONS.**

3 Section 11221 of the Don Young Coast Guard Au-
4 thorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) ADDITIONAL REPORTS ON STATUS OF USE OF
7 FACILITIES AND HELICOPTER BASING.—Beginning with
8 the first quarterly report required under subsection (a)
9 submitted after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard
10 Authorization Act of 2024, the Secretary shall include in
11 each such report—

12 “(1) the status of the use of recently renovated
13 Coast Guard housing facilities, food preparation fa-
14 cilities, and maintenance and repair facilities on St.
15 Paul Island, Alaska, including a projected date for
16 full use and occupancy of such facilities in support
17 of Coast Guard missions in the Bering Sea; and

18 “(2) a detailed plan for the acquisition and con-
19 struction of a hangar in close proximity to existing
20 St. Paul airport facilities to house 1 or more Coast
21 Guard helicopters for the prosecution of Coast
22 Guard operational missions, including plans for the
23 use of land needed for such hangar.”.

Subtitle B—Personnel

SEC. 221. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR CIVILIAN FACULTY AT THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

Section 1941 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) The Secretary may, without regard to the appointment requirements of title 5, United States Code, noncompetitively appoint a highly qualified candidate to a faculty position in the excepted service.”.

SEC. 222. TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM AUTHORIZED END STRENGTH FOR COAST GUARD EN- LISTED MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY.

Notwithstanding section 517 of title 10, United States Code, and until October 1, 2027, the authorized end strength for enlisted members on active duty (other than for training) in the Coast Guard in pay grades E–8 and E–9 may be more than 3.0 percent and 1.25 percent respectively of the number of enlisted members of the Coast Guard who are on active duty other than for training.

1 **SEC. 223. ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE GUIDANCE AND CONSID-**
2 **ERATIONS FOR RESERVE SELECTION**
3 **BOARDS.**

4 Section 3740(f) of title 14, United States Code, is
5 amended by striking “section 2117” and inserting “sec-
6 tions 2115 and 2117”.

7 **SEC. 224. PARENTAL LEAVE PARITY FOR MEMBERS OF CER-**
8 **TAIN RESERVE COMPONENTS OF COAST**
9 **GUARD.**

10 (a) PARENTAL LEAVE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 29
12 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by add-
13 ing at the end the following:

14 **“§ 2907. Parental leave for members of certain re-**
15 **serve components of Coast Guard**

16 “(a)(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Sec-
17 retary, a member of the reserve component of the Coast
18 Guard described in subsection (b) is allowed parental leave
19 for a duration of up to 12 inactive-duty training periods,
20 under section 206 of title 37, during the one-year period
21 beginning after the following events:

22 “(A) the birth or adoption of a child of the
23 member and to care for such child; or

24 “(B) the placement of a minor child with the
25 member for adoption or long-term foster care.

1 “(2)(A) The Secretary of the department in which the
2 Coast Guard is operating, may authorize leave described
3 under subparagraph (A) to be taken after the one-year
4 period described in subparagraph (A) in the case of a
5 member described in subsection (b) who, except for this
6 subparagraph, would lose unused parental leave at the end
7 of the one-year period described in subparagraph (A) as
8 a result of—

9 “(i) operational requirements;

10 “(ii) professional military education obligations;

11 or

12 “(iii) other circumstances that the Secretary de-
13 termines reasonable and appropriate.

14 “(B) The regulations prescribed under clause (i) shall
15 require that any leave authorized to be taken after the
16 one-year period described in subparagraph (A) shall be
17 taken within a reasonable period of time, as determined
18 by the Secretary in which the department is operating,
19 after cessation of the circumstances warranting the ex-
20 tended deadline.

21 “(b) A member described in this subsection is a mem-
22 ber of the Coast Guard who is a member of—

23 “(1) the selected reserve who is entitled to com-
24 pensation under section 206 of title 37; or

“2907. Parental leave for members of certain reserve components of Coast Guard.”.

15 SEC. 225. AUTHORIZATION FOR MATERNITY UNIFORM AL-
16 LOWANCE FOR OFFICERS.

19 “(c) The Coast Guard may provide a cash allowance
20 in such amount as the Secretary of the department in
21 which the Coast Guard is operating shall determine in reg-
22 ulations to be paid to pregnant officer personnel for the
23 purchase of maternity-related uniform items if such uni-
24 form items are not so furnished to the member.”.

1 **SEC. 226. REPORT ON GAO RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOUS-**
2 **ING PROGRAM.**

3 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Com-
5 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
6 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
7 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the
8 status of the implementation of the recommendations con-
9 tained in the report of the Government Accountability Of-
10 fice titled “Coast Guard: Better Feedback Collection and
11 Information Could Enhance Housing Program”, and
12 issued February 5, 2024 (GAO–24–106388).

13 **TITLE III—SHIPPING AND**
14 **NAVIGATION**
15 **Subtitle A—Vessel Operations**

16 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this subtitle:

18 (1) OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—The term
19 “outer Continental Shelf” has the meaning given
20 such term in section 2 of the Outer Continental
21 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331).

22 (2) RULING LETTER.—The term “ruling letter”
23 means any ruling letter or headquarters ruling letter
24 relating to the enforcement of chapters 121 and 551
25 of title 46, United States Code (commonly referred
26 to as the “Jones Act”), issued by the Commissioner

1 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to
2 sections 502(a) or 625 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19
3 U.S.C. 1502(a) and 1625).

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through
6 the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Pro-
7 tection.

8 **SEC. 302. NOTIFICATION.**

9 (a) ADVANCE NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Prior to
10 engaging in any activity or operations on the outer Conti-
11 nental Shelf, the operator of a foreign vessel used in such
12 activity or operations shall file with the Secretary a notifi-
13 cation describing all activities and operations to be per-
14 formed on the outer Continental Shelf and an identifica-
15 tion of applicable ruling letters issued by the Secretary
16 that have approved the use of a foreign vessel in a sub-
17 stantially similar activity or operation.

18 (b) PUBLICATION OF NOTICES.—

19 (1) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish
20 a notification under subsection (a) in the Customs
21 Bulletin and Decisions within 14 days of receipt of
22 such notification.

23 (2) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—The Sec-
24 retary shall redact any information exempt from dis-
25 closure under section 552 of title 5, United States

1 Code, in a notification published under paragraph
2 (1).

3 **SEC. 303. PUBLICATION OF FINES AND PENALTIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 55102 of title 46, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(d) PUBLICATION OF PENALTY.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days
9 after the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or a pen-
10 alty, including a settlement, under subsection (c),
11 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publish
12 such pre-penalty notice or a notification of such pen-
13 alty in the Customs Bulletin and Decisions to the
14 party impacted by the penalty.

15 “(2) CONTENTS.—A pre-penalty notice or pen-
16 alty notification published under paragraph (1) shall
17 include—

18 “(A) the name and the International Mari-
19 time Organization identification number of the
20 vessel that is the subject of the penalty;

21 “(B) the name of the owner of the vessel
22 that is the subject of the penalty;

23 “(C) the amount of the fine or value of
24 merchandise seized; and

1 “(D) a summary of the alleged misconduct
2 and justification for imposing a penalty.”.

3 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue
5 such regulations as are necessary to implement the
6 amendments made by subsection (a), including—

7 (1) regulations regarding the information to be
8 contained in a penalty notification under section
9 55102(d) of title 46, United States Code (as amend-
10 ed by such subsection); and

11 (2) any changes to existing regulations relating
12 to penalties issued by the Secretary.

13 **Subtitle B—Merchant Mariner** 14 **Credentialing**

15 **SEC. 311. REVISING MERCHANT MARINER DECK TRAINING** 16 **REQUIREMENTS.**

17 (a) GENERAL DEFINITIONS.—Section 2101 of title
18 46, United States Code, is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through
20 (56) as paragraphs (21) through (57), respectively;
21 and

22 (2) by inserting after paragraph (19) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(20) ‘merchant mariner credential’ means a
25 merchant mariner license, certificate, or document

1 that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursuant to
2 this title.”.

3 (b) EXAMINATIONS.—Section 7116 of title 46,
4 United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c).

5 (c) MERCHANT MARINERS DOCUMENTS.—

6 (1) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 7306
7 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 **“§ 7306. General requirements and classifications for**
10 **members of deck departments**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue a mer-
12 chant mariner credential, to members of the deck depart-
13 ment in the following classes:

14 “(1) Able Seaman-Unlimited.

15 “(2) Able Seaman-Limited.

16 “(3) Able Seaman-Special.

17 “(4) Able Seaman-Offshore Supply Vessels.

18 “(5) Able Seaman-Sail.

19 “(6) Able Seaman-Fishing Industry.

20 “(7) Ordinary Seaman.

21 “(b) CLASSIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS.—The Sec-
22 retary may classify the merchant mariner credential issued
23 under subsection (a) based on—

24 “(1) the tonnage and means of propulsion of
25 vessels;

1 “(2) the waters on which vessels are to be oper-
2 ated; or

3 “(3) other appropriate standards.

4 “(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In issuing the credential
5 under subsection (a), the Secretary may consider the fol-
6 lowing qualifications of the merchant mariner:

7 “(1) Age.

8 “(2) Character.

9 “(3) Habits of life.

10 “(4) Experience.

11 “(5) Professional qualifications demonstrated
12 by satisfactory completion of applicable examinations
13 or other educational requirements.

14 “(6) Physical condition, including sight and
15 hearing.

16 “(7) Other requirements established by the Sec-
17 retary, including career patterns and service appro-
18 priate to the particular service, industry, or job
19 functions the individual is engaged.”.

20 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
21 chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is
22 amended by striking the item relating to section
23 7306 and inserting the following:

 “7306. General requirements and classifications for members of deck depart-
 ments.”.

1 (3) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS
2 OF ENGINE DEPARTMENTS.—Section 7313(b) of title
3 46, United States Code, is amended by striking
4 “and coal passer”.

5 (4) TRAINING.—Section 7315 of title 46,
6 United States Code, is amended—

7 (A) by amending subsection (a) to read as
8 follows:

9 “(a) Graduation from a nautical school program ap-
10 proved by the Secretary may be substituted for the service
11 requirements under sections 7307–7312 and 7314.”;

12 (B) in subsection (b)—

13 (i) by striking “one-third” and insert-
14 ing “one-half”; and

15 (ii) by striking “7307–7311 of this
16 title” and inserting “7307–7312 and
17 7314”; and

18 (C) by striking subsection (c).

19 (d) REDUCTION OF LENGTHS OF CERTAIN PERIODS
20 OF SERVICE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title 46, United States
22 Code, is amended as follows:

23 (A) Section 7307 is amended by striking
24 “3 years” and inserting “18 months”.

1 (B) Section 7308 is amended by striking
2 “18 months” and inserting “12 months”.

3 (C) Section 7309 is amended by striking
4 “12 months” and inserting “6 months”.

5 (2) TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF LENGTHS OF
6 CERTAIN PERIODS OF SERVICE.—Section 3534(j) of
7 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
8 Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is repealed.

9 (e) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS.—Section
10 7510 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by strik-
11 ing subsection (d).

12 (f) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the depart-
13 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall imple-
14 ment the amended requirements under subsections (c)(3),
15 (c)(4), and (c)(6) of this section without regard to chap-
16 ters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, and Executive
17 Orders 12866 and 13563 (5 U.S.C. 601 note).

18 **SEC. 312. AMENDMENTS.**

19 (a) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS.—The head-
20 ing for part E of subtitle II of title 46, United States
21 Code, is amended by striking “**MERCHANT SEAMEN LI-**
22 **CENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND DOCUMENTS**” and in-
23 serting “**MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS**”.

24 (b) ABLE SEAFARERS—UNLIMITED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for sec-
2 tion 7307 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
3 ed by striking “**seamen**” and inserting “**sea-**
4 **farers**”.

5 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
6 chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further
7 amended in the item relating to section 7307 by
8 striking “seamen” and inserting “seafarers”.

9 (c) ABLE SEAMEN—LIMITED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for sec-
11 tion 7308 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
12 ed by striking “**seamen**” and inserting “**sea-**
13 **farers**”.

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
15 chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further
16 amended in the item relating to section 7308 by
17 striking “seamen” and inserting “seafarers”.

18 (d) ABLE SEAFARERS—SPECIAL.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for sec-
20 tion 7309 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
21 ed by striking “**seamen**” and inserting “**sea-**
22 **farers**”.

23 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
24 chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further

1 amended in the item relating to section 7309 by
2 striking “seamen” and inserting “seafarers”.

3 (e) ABLE SEAFARERS—OFFSHORE SUPPLY VES-
4 SELS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for sec-
6 tion 7310 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
7 ed by striking “**seamen**” and inserting “**sea-**
8 **farers**”.

9 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
10 chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further
11 amended in the item relating to section 7310 by
12 striking “seamen” and inserting “seafarers”.

13 (f) ABLE SEAFARERS—SAIL.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for sec-
15 tion 7311 of title 46, United States Code, is amend-
16 ed by striking “**seamen**” and inserting “**sea-**
17 **farers**”.

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
21 striking “seamen” and inserting “seafarers”.

22 (g) ABLE SEAMEN—FISHING INDUSTRY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for sec-
24 tion 7311a of title 46, United States Code, is

1 amended by striking “**seamen**” and inserting
 2 “**seafarers**”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
 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 (h) 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 “sea-
 10 farer” each place it appears; and

11 (2) by striking “seamen” and inserting “sea-
 12 farers” each place it appears.

13 (i) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for sub-
 14 title II of title 46, United States Code, is amended in the
 15 item relating to part E by striking “MERCHANT SEA-
 16 MEN LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND DOCU-
 17 MENTS” and inserting “MERCHANT MARINER CRE-
 18 DENTIALS”.

19 **SEC. 313. RENEWAL OF MERCHANT MARINER LICENSES**
 20 **AND DOCUMENTS.**

21 Section 7507 of title 46, United States Code, is
 22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(d) RENEWAL.—With respect to any renewal of an
 24 active merchant mariner credential issued under this part
 25 that is not an extension under subsection (a) or (b), such

1 credential shall begin the day after the expiration of the
 2 active credential of the credential holder.”.

3 **SEC. 314. MERCHANT SEAMEN LICENSES, CERTIFICATES,**
 4 **AND DOCUMENTS; MANNING OF VESSELS.**

5 (a) CITIZENSHIP OR NONCITIZEN NATIONALITY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7102 of title 46,
 7 United States Code, is amended—

8 (A) in the section heading by inserting “**or**
 9 **noncitizen nationality**” after “**Citizen-**
 10 **ship**”; and

11 (B) by inserting “or noncitizen nationals
 12 (as such term is described in section 308 of the
 13 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
 14 1408))” after “citizens”.

15 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
 16 chapter 71 of title 46, United States Code, is
 17 amended by striking the item relating to section
 18 7102 and inserting the following:

“7102. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality.”.

19 (b) CITIZENSHIP OR NONCITIZEN NATIONALITY NO-
 20 TATION ON MERCHANT MARINERS’ DOCUMENTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7304 of title 46,
 22 United States Code, is amended—

23 (A) in the section heading by inserting “**or**
 24 **noncitizen nationality**” after “**Citizen-**
 25 **ship**”; and

1 (B) by inserting “or noncitizen national
 2 (as such term is described in section 308 of the
 3 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
 4 1408))” after “citizen”.

5 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
 6 chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is
 7 amended by striking the item relating to section
 8 7304 and inserting the following:

“7304. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality notation on merchant mariners’ documents.”.

9 (c) CITIZENSHIP OR NONCITIZEN NATIONALITY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8103 of title 46,
 11 United States Code, is amended—

12 (A) in the section heading by inserting “**or**
 13 **noncitizen nationality**” after “**Citizen-**
 14 **ship**”;

15 (B) in subsection (a) by inserting “or non-
 16 citizen national” after “citizen”;

17 (C) in subsection (b)—

18 (i) in paragraph (1)(A)(i) by inserting
 19 “or noncitizen national” after “citizen”;

20 (ii) in paragraph (3) by inserting “or
 21 noncitizen nationality” after “citizenship”;
 22 and

23 (iii) in paragraph (3)(C) by inserting
 24 “or noncitizen nationals” after “citizens”;

1 (D) in subsection (c) by inserting “or non-
 2 citizen nationals” after “citizens”;

3 (E) in subsection (d)—

4 (i) in paragraph (1) by inserting “or
 5 noncitizen nationals” after “citizens”; and

6 (ii) in paragraph (2) by inserting “or
 7 noncitizen national” after “citizen” each
 8 place it appears;

9 (F) in subsection (e) by inserting “or non-
 10 citizen national” after “citizen” each place it
 11 appears;

12 (G) in subsection (i)(1)(A) by inserting “or
 13 noncitizen national” after “citizen”;

14 (H) in subsection (k)(1)(A) by inserting
 15 “or noncitizen national” after “citizen”; and

16 (I) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(l) NONCITIZEN NATIONAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
 18 tion, the term ‘noncitizen national’ means an individual
 19 described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nation-
 20 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408).”.

21 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
 22 chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is
 23 amended by striking the item relating to section
 24 8103 and inserting the following:

“8103. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality and Navy Reserve requirements.”.

1 (d) COMMAND OF DOCUMENTED VESSELS.—Section
 2 12131(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by
 3 inserting “or noncitizen national (as such term is de-
 4 scribed in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality
 5 Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))” after “citizen”.

6 (e) INVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATES OF DOCU-
 7 MENTATION.—Section 12135(2) of title 46, United States
 8 Code, is amended by inserting “or noncitizen national (as
 9 such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration
 10 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))” after “citizen”.

11 **Subtitle C—Vessel Safety**

12 **SEC. 321. GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OPERATIONS OF A VESSEL.**

13 Section 2302(b) of title 46, United States Code, is
 14 amended to read as follows:

15 “(b) GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OPERATION.—

16 “(1) MISDEMEANOR.—A person operating a
 17 vessel in a grossly negligent manner that endangers
 18 the life, limb, or property of a person commits a
 19 class A misdemeanor.

20 “(2) FELONY.—A person operating a vessel in
 21 a grossly negligent manner that results in serious
 22 bodily injury, as defined in section 1365(h)(3) of
 23 title 18—

24 “(A) commits a class E felony; and

1 “(B) may be assessed a civil penalty of not
2 more than \$35,000.”.

3 **SEC. 322. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR SECURITY**
4 **RISKS.**

5 (a) SECURITY RISK.—Section 7702(d)(1) of title 46,
6 United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (B) by redesignating
8 clauses (i) through (iv) as subclauses (I) through
9 (IV), respectively (and by conforming the margins
10 accordingly);

11 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and
12 (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively (and by con-
13 forming the margins accordingly);

14 (3) by striking “an individual if—” and insert-
15 ing the following: “an individual—

16 “(A) if—”;

17 (4) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(IV), as so redesign-
18 nated, by striking the period at the end and insert-
19 ing “; or”; and

20 (5) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(B) if there is probable cause to believe that
22 the individual has violated company policy and is a
23 security risk that poses a threat to other individuals
24 on the vessel.”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 2101(47)(B)
2 of title 46, United States Code (as so redesignated), is
3 amended by striking “; and” and inserting “; or”.

4 **SEC. 323. REQUIREMENTS FOR DUKW AMPHIBIOUS PAS-**
5 **SENGER VESSELS.**

6 Section 11502 of the James M. Inhofe National De-
7 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law
8 117–263) is amended—

9 (1) in the section header by striking “**DUKW**
10 **AMPHIBIOUS PASSENGER VESSELS**” and insert-
11 ing “**COMMERCIAL AMPHIBIOUS SMALL PAS-**
12 **SENGER VESSELS**”;

13 (2) by striking “DUKW amphibious passenger
14 vessel” each place it appears and inserting “com-
15 mercial amphibious small passenger vessel”;

16 (3) by striking “DUKW amphibious passenger
17 vessels” each place it appears and inserting “com-
18 mercial amphibious small passenger vessels”;

19 (4) in subsection (h)—

20 (A) by striking “DEFINITIONS” and all
21 that follows through “The term ‘appropriate
22 congressional committees’” and inserting “AP-
23 PROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
24 FINED.—The term ‘appropriate congressional
25 committees’”; and

1 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

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

3 “(i) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to am-
4 phibious vessels operating as a small passenger vessel in
5 waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as
6 such term is defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of
7 Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment
8 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024).”.

9 **SEC. 324. RISK BASED EXAMINATION OF TANK VESSELS.**

10 Section 3714 of title 46, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “The Sec-
13 retary” and inserting “Except as provided in sub-
14 section (c), the Secretary”;

15 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
16 section (d); and

17 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(c) RISK-BASED EXAMINATION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to examina-
21 tions of foreign-flagged vessels to which this chapter
22 applies, the Secretary may adopt a risk-based exam-
23 ination schedule to which such vessels shall be exam-
24 ined and the frequency with which the examinations
25 occur.

1 “(2) RESTRICTION.—The Secretary may not
2 adopt a risk-based examination schedule under para-
3 graph (1) until the Secretary has—

4 “(A) received and reviewed the study by
5 the National Academies required under section
6 8254(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry
7 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
8 Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283);

9 “(B) conducted the assessment rec-
10 ommended in the report of the Government Ac-
11 countability Office submitted under section
12 8254(a) of such Act;

13 “(C) concluded through such assessment
14 that a risk-based examination schedule provides
15 not less than the level of safety provided by the
16 annual examinations required under subsection
17 (a)(1); and

18 “(D) provided the results of such assess-
19 ment to the Committee on Transportation and
20 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
21 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
22 Transportation of the Senate.”.

23 **SEC. 325. PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY.**

24 (a) WATERFRONT SAFETY.—Section 70011(a) of
25 title 46, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, including
2 damage or destruction resulting from cyber inci-
3 dents, transnational organized crime, or foreign
4 state threats” after “adjacent to such waters”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (2) by inserting “or harm re-
6 sulting from cyber incidents, transnational organized
7 crime, or foreign state threats” after “loss”.

8 (b) REGULATION OF ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT
9 OF VESSELS DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—Section
10 70051 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by in-
11 serting “or cyber incidents, or transnational organized
12 crime, or foreign state threats,” after “threatened war, or
13 invasion, or insurrection, or subversive activity,”.

14 (c) FACILITY VISIT BY STATE SPONSOR OF TER-
15 RORISM.—Section 70011(b) of title 46, United States
16 Code, is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (3) by striking “and” at the
18 end;

19 (2) in paragraph (4) by striking the period at
20 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

22 “(5) prohibiting a representative of a govern-
23 ment of country that the Secretary of State has de-
24 termined has repeatedly provided support for acts of
25 international terrorism under section 620A of the

1 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371)
2 from visiting a facility for which a facility security
3 plan is required under section 70103(c).”.

4 **SEC. 326. STUDY ON BERING STRAIT VESSEL TRAFFIC PRO-**
5 **JECTIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE POS-**
6 **TURE AT THE PORT OF POINT SPENCER,**
7 **ALASKA.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall seek
10 to enter into an agreement with the National Academies
11 of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, under which the
12 Marine Board of the Transportation Research Board (in
13 this section referred to as the “Board”) shall conduct a
14 study to—

15 (1) analyze commercial vessel traffic that tran-
16 sits through the Bering Strait and projections for
17 the growth of such traffic during the 10-year period
18 beginning after such date of enactment; and

19 (2) assess the adequacy of emergency response
20 capabilities and infrastructure at the Port of Point
21 Spencer, Alaska, to address navigation safety risks
22 and geographic challenges necessary to conduct
23 emergency maritime response operations in the Arc-
24 tic environment.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under sub-
2 section (a) shall include the following:

3 (1) An analysis of the volume and types of do-
4 mestic and international commercial vessel traffic
5 through the Bering Strait and the projected growth
6 of such traffic, including a summary of—

7 (A) the sizes, ages, and flag states of ves-
8 sels; and

9 (B) the oil and product tankers that are—

10 (i) in transit to or from Russia or
11 China; or

12 (ii) owned or operated by a Russian
13 or Chinese entity.

14 (2) An assessment of the state and adequacy of
15 vessel traffic services and oil spill and emergency re-
16 sponse capabilities in the vicinity of the Bering
17 Strait, including its approaches.

18 (3) A risk assessment of the projected growth
19 in commercial vessel traffic in the Bering Strait and
20 higher probability of increased frequency in the
21 number of maritime accidents, including spill events,
22 and the potential impacts to the Arctic maritime en-
23 vironment and Native Alaskan village communities
24 in the vicinity of the Bering Strait.

1 (4) An evaluation of the ability of the Port of
2 Point Spencer, Alaska, to serve as a port of refuge
3 and as a staging, logistics, and operations center to
4 conduct and support maritime emergency and spill
5 response activities.

6 (5) Recommendations for practical actions that
7 can be taken by the Congress, Federal agencies, the
8 State of Alaska, vessel carriers and operators, the
9 marine salvage and emergency response industry,
10 and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate risks,
11 upgrade infrastructure, and improve the posture of
12 the Port of Point Spencer, Alaska, to function as a
13 strategic staging and logistics center for maritime
14 emergency and spill response operations in the Ber-
15 ing Strait region.

16 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study re-
17 quired under subsection (a), the Board shall consult
18 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
23 Canada;

24 (5) the Port Coordination Council for the Port
25 of Point Spencer; and

1 (6) non-government entities with relevant exper-
2 tise in monitoring and characterizing vessel traffic in
3 the Arctic.

4 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after initiating
5 the study under subsection (a), the Board shall submit
6 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
7 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
8 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
9 report containing the findings and recommendations of the
10 study.

11 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) ARCTIC.—The term “Arctic” has the mean-
13 ing given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Re-
14 search and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

15 (2) PORT COORDINATION COUNCIL FOR THE
16 PORT OF POINT SPENCER.—The term “Port Coordi-
17 nation Council for the Port of Point Spencer” means
18 the Council established under section 541 of the
19 Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Public Law
20 114–120).

21 **SEC. 327. UNDERWATER INSPECTIONS BRIEF.**

22 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
23 of this Act, the Commandant, or a designated individual,
24 shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
25 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
2 Senate on the underwater inspection in lieu of drydock
3 program established under section 176.615 of title 46,
4 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of
5 enactment of this Act).

6 **SEC. 328. ST. LUCIE RIVER RAILROAD BRIDGE.**

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

11 **SEC. 329. RULEMAKING REGARDING PORT ACCESS**
12 **ROUTES.**

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

20 **SEC. 330. ARTICULATED TUG-BARGE MANNING.**

21 Section 11508 of the James M. Inhofe National De-
22 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law
23 117–263) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 11508. ARTICULATED TUG-BARGE MANNING.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the watch set-
3 ting requirements set forth in section 8104 of title 46,
4 United States Code, or any other provision of law or regu-
5 lation, an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection may au-
6 thorize a covered vessel—

7 “(1) when engaged on a domestic voyage of
8 more than 600 miles, to be manned with a minimum
9 number of 2 licensed engineers in the engine depart-
10 ment; and

11 “(2) when engaged on a voyage of less than
12 600 miles, to be manned with a minimum number
13 of 1 licensed engineer in the engine department.

14 “(b) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—In this section,
15 the term ‘covered vessel’ means a towing vessel issued a
16 certificate of inspection under subchapter M of chapter I
17 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, which—

18 “(1) forms part of an articulated tug-barge
19 unit; and

20 “(2) is either—

21 “(A) equipped with engineering control
22 and monitoring systems of a type accepted by
23 a recognized classification society for a periodi-
24 cally unmanned machinery space notation or ac-
25 cepted by the Commandant for a periodically
26 unattended machinery space endorsement; or

1 “(B) is a vessel that, prior to July 19,
2 2022, was issued a minimum safe manning doc-
3 ument or certificate of inspection that author-
4 ized equivalent or less manning levels.”.

5 **Subtitle D—Other Matters**

6 **SEC. 341. ANCHOR HANDLING ACTIVITIES.**

7 Section 12111(d) of title 46, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “or
11 other energy production or transmission facility,
12 or vessel engaged in the launch, recovery, or
13 support of commercial space transportation or
14 space exploration activities” after “drilling
15 unit”; and

16 (B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting “or
17 other energy production or transmission facility,
18 or vessel engaged in the launch, recovery, or
19 support of commercial space transportation or
20 space exploration activities” after “drilling
21 unit”; and

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

23 “(3) ENERGY PRODUCTION OR TRANSMISSION
24 FACILITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term

1 ‘energy production or transmission facility’ means a
2 floating offshore facility that is—

3 “(A) not a vessel;

4 “(B) securely and substantially moored to
5 the seabed; and

6 “(C) equipped with wind turbines which
7 are used for the generation and transmission of
8 non-mineral energy resources.”.

9 **SEC. 342. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COM-**
10 **MITTEE ON AUTONOMOUS MARITIME SYS-**
11 **TEMS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 151 of title 46, United
13 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 **“§ 15110. Establishment of National Advisory Com-**
16 **mittee on Autonomous Maritime Systems**

17 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Na-
18 tional Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Sys-
19 tems (in this section referred to as the ‘Committee’).

20 “(b) FUNCTION.—The Committee shall advise the
21 Secretary on matters relating to the regulation and use
22 of Autonomous Systems within the territorial waters of
23 the United States.

24 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall con-
2 sist of 9 members appointed by the Secretary in ac-
3 cordance with this section and section 15109.

4 “(2) EXPERTISE.—Each member of the Com-
5 mittee shall have particular expertise, knowledge,
6 and experience in matters relating to the function of
7 the Committee.

8 “(3) REPRESENTATION.—Each of the following
9 groups shall be represented by at least 1 member on
10 the Committee:

11 “(A) Marine safety or security entities.

12 “(B) Vessel design and construction enti-
13 ties.

14 “(C) Entities engaged in the production or
15 research of unmanned vehicles, including
16 drones, autonomous or semi-autonomous vehi-
17 cles, or any other product or service integral to
18 the provision, maintenance, or management of
19 such products or services.

20 “(D) Port districts, authorities, or terminal
21 operators.

22 “(E) Vessel operators.

23 “(F) National labor unions representing
24 merchant mariners.

25 “(G) Maritime pilots.

1 “(H) Commercial space transportation op-
2 erators.

3 “(I) Academic institutions.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for
5 chapter 151 of title 46, United States Code, is amended
6 by adding at the end the following:

 “15110. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Mari-
 time Systems.”.

7 (c) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
9 department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall
10 establish the Committee under section 15110 of title 46,
11 United States Code (as added by this section).

12 **SEC. 343. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ONBOARD VESSELS.**

13 Section 70503(a) of title 46, United States Code, is
14 amended—

15 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
16 striking “While on board a covered vessel, an indi-
17 vidual” and inserting “An individual”;

18 (2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
19 lows:

20 “(1) manufacture or distribute, possess with in-
21 tent to manufacture or distribute, or place or cause
22 to be placed with intent to manufacture or distribute
23 a controlled substance on board a covered vessel;”;
24 and

1 (3) in paragraph (2) by inserting “aboard a
2 covered vessel” after “Comprehensive Drug Abuse
3 Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C.
4 881(a))”.

5 **SEC. 344. NONOPERATING INDIVIDUAL.**

6 Section 8313(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry
7 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021
8 (Public Law 116– 283) is amended by striking “2025”
9 and inserting “2027”.

10 **SEC. 345. INFORMATION ON TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFI-**
11 **CATES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IX of the Frank LoBiondo
13 Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–
14 282) is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 **“SEC. 904. INFORMATION ON TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFI-**
16 **CATES.**

17 “The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall, upon
18 request by any State, the District of Columbia, or any ter-
19 ritory of the United States, provide all data possessed by
20 the Coast Guard pertaining to challenge water quality
21 characteristics, challenge water biological organism con-
22 centrations, post-treatment water quality characteristics,
23 and post-treatment biological organism concentrations
24 data for a ballast water management system with a type
25 approval certificate approved by the Coast Guard pursu-

1 ant to subpart 162.060 of title 46, Code of Federal Regu-
 2 lations.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 4 in section 2 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Author-
 5 ization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282) is amended by
 6 inserting after the item relating to section 903 the fol-
 7 lowing:

“Sec. 904. Information on type approval certificates.”.

8 **SEC. 346. MANNING AND CREWING REQUIREMENTS FOR**
 9 **CERTAIN VESSELS, VEHICLES, AND STRUC-**
 10 **TURES.**

11 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF LIMITED EXEMPTIONS
 12 FROM MANNING AND CREW REQUIREMENT.—Chapter 81
 13 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at
 14 the end the following:

15 **“§ 8109. Exemptions from manning and crew require-**
 16 **ments**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide an
 18 exemption described in subsection (b) to the owner or op-
 19 erator of a covered facility if each individual who is man-
 20 ning or crewing the covered facility is—

21 “(1) a citizen of the United States;

22 “(2) an alien lawfully admitted to the United
 23 States for permanent residence; or

24 “(3) a citizen of the nation under the laws of
 25 which the vessel is documented.

1 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR EXEMP-
2 TION.—An exemption under this subsection is an exemp-
3 tion from the regulations established pursuant to section
4 302(a)(3) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43
5 U.S.C. 1356(a)(3)).

6 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—An exemption under this sec-
7 tion—

8 “(1) shall provide that the number of individ-
9 uals manning or crewing the covered facility who are
10 described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection
11 (a) may not exceed two and one- half times the
12 number of individuals required to man or crew the
13 covered facility under the laws of the nation under
14 the laws of which the covered facility is documented;
15 and

16 “(2) shall be effective for not more than 12
17 months, but may be renewed by application to and
18 approval by the Secretary.

19 “(d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for an exemption
20 or a renewal of an exemption under this section, the owner
21 or operator of a covered facility shall apply to the Sec-
22 retary with an application that includes a sworn statement
23 by the applicant of all information required for the
24 issuance of the exemption.

25 “(e) REVOCATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

2 “(A) may revoke an exemption for a cov-
3 ered facility under this section if the Secretary
4 determines that information provided in the ap-
5 plication for the exemption was false or incom-
6 plete, or is no longer true or complete; and

7 “(B) shall immediately revoke such an ex-
8 emption if the Secretary determines that the
9 covered facility, in the effective period of the ex-
10 emption, was manned or crewed in a manner
11 not authorized by the exemption.

12 “(2) NOTICE REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall
13 provides notice of a determination under subpara-
14 graph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) to the owner or
15 operator of the covered facility.

16 “(f) REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall
17 periodically, but not less than once annually, inspect each
18 covered facility that operates under an exemption under
19 this section to verify the owner or operator of the covered
20 facility’s compliance with the exemption. During an in-
21 spection under this subsection, the Secretary shall require
22 all crew members serving under the exemption to hold a
23 valid transportation security card issued under section
24 70105.

1 “(g) PENALTY.—In addition to revocation under sub-
2 section (e), the Secretary may impose on the owner or op-
3 erator of a covered facility a civil penalty of \$10,000 per
4 day for each day the covered facility—

5 “(1) is manned or crewed in violation of an ex-
6 emption under this subsection; or

7 “(2) operated under an exemption under this
8 subsection that the Secretary determines was not
9 validly obtained.

10 “(h) NOTIFICATION OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—The
11 Secretary shall notify the Secretary of State of each ex-
12 emption issued under this section, including the effective
13 period of the exemption.

14 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ‘covered
16 facility’ means any vessel, rig, platform, or other ve-
17 hicle or structure, over 50 percent of which is owned
18 by citizens of a foreign nation or with respect to
19 which the citizens of a foreign nation have the right
20 effectively to control, except to the extent and to the
21 degree that the President determines that the gov-
22 ernment of such foreign nation or any of its political
23 subdivisions has implemented, by statute, regulation,
24 policy, or practice, a national manning requirement
25 for equipment engaged in the exploring for, devel-

1 oping, or producing resources, including non-mineral
2 energy resources in its offshore areas.

3 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
4 the Secretary of the department in which the Coast
5 Guard is operating.”.

6 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
9 thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which
10 the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to Com-
11 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
12 House of Representatives and the Committee on
13 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
14 ate a report containing information on each letter of
15 nonapplicability of section 8109 of title 46, United
16 States Code, with respect to a covered facility that
17 was issued by the Secretary during the preceding
18 year.

19 (2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph
20 (1) shall include, for each covered facility—

21 (A) the name and International Maritime
22 Organization number;

23 (B) the nation in which the covered facility
24 is documented;

25 (C) the nationality of owner or owners; and

1 (D) for any covered facility that was pre-
2 viously issued a letter of nonapplicability in a
3 prior year, any changes in the information de-
4 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

5 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pro-
7 mulgate regulations that specify the documentary and
8 other requirements for the issuance of an exemption under
9 the amendment made by this section.

10 (d) EXISTING EXEMPTIONS.—

11 (1) EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS; TERMIN-
12 NATION.—Each exemption under section 30(c)(2) of
13 the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
14 1356(c)(2)) issued before the date of the enactment
15 of this Act—

16 (A) shall not be affected by the amend-
17 ments made by this section during the 120-day
18 period beginning on the date of the enactment
19 of this Act; and

20 (B) shall not be effective after such period.

21 (2) NOTIFICATION OF HOLDERS.—Not later
22 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this
23 Act, the Secretary shall notify all persons that hold
24 such an exemption that it will expire as provided in
25 paragraph (1).

1 (e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
 2 ter 81 of the title 46, United States Code, is amended
 3 by adding at the end the following:

“8109. Exemptions from manning and crew requirements.”.

4 **SEC. 347. CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES.**

5 Section 3316(d) of title 46, United States Code, is
 6 amended—

7 (1) by amending paragraph (2)(B)(i) to read as
 8 follows:

9 “(i) the government of the foreign country in
 10 which the foreign society is headquartered—

11 “(I) delegates that authority to the Amer-
 12 ican Bureau of Shipping; or

13 “(II) does not delegate that authority to
 14 any classification society; or”; and

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

16 “(5) CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing
 17 in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to make
 18 a delegation under paragraph (2) to a classification
 19 society from the People’s Republic of China.”.

20 **SEC. 348. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH SAFETY ZONES FOR**
 21 **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN EXCLUSIVE ECO-**
 22 **NOMIC ZONE.**

23 (a) REPEAL.—Section 8343 of the William M. (Mac)
 24 Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
 25 Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) is repealed.

1 (b) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC
2 ZONE.—Subchapter I of chapter 700 of title 46, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“§ 70008. Special activities in exclusive economic**
6 **zone**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department
8 in which the Coast Guard is operating may establish safe-
9 ty zones to address special activities in the exclusive eco-
10 nomic zone.

11 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) SAFETY ZONE.—The term ‘safety zone’—

13 “(A) means a water area, shore area, or
14 water and shore area to which, for safety or en-
15 vironmental purposes, access is limited to au-
16 thorized persons, vehicles, or vessels; and

17 “(B) may be stationary and described by
18 fixed limits or may be described as a zone
19 around a vessel in motion.

20 “(2) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘special
21 activities’ includes—

22 “(A) space activities, including launch and
23 reentry (as such terms are defined in section
24 50902 of title 51) carried out by United States
25 citizens; and

1 “(B) offshore energy development activi-
 2 ties, as described in section 8(p)(1)(C) of the
 3 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
 4 1337(p)(1)(C)), on or near fixed platforms (as
 5 such term is defined in section 2281(d) of title
 6 18).

7 “(3) UNITED STATES CITIZEN.—The term
 8 ‘United States citizen’ has the meaning given the
 9 term ‘eligible owners’ in section 12103 of title 46,
 10 United States Code.”.

11 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
 12 ter 700 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by
 13 inserting after the item relating to section 70007 the fol-
 14 lowing:

“70008. Special activities in exclusive economic zone.”.

15 **SEC. 349. FISHING VESSEL AND FISHERMAN TRAINING**
 16 **SAFETY.**

17 Section 4502 of title 46, United States Code, is
 18 amended—

19 (1) in subsection (i)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking
 22 “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

23 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
 24 (B) as subparagraph (C); and

1 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph

2 (A) the following:

3 “(B) to conduct safety and prevention
4 training that addresses behavioral and physical
5 health risks, to include substance use disorder
6 and worker fatigue, facing fishing vessel opera-
7 tors and crewmembers; and”;

8 (B) in paragraph (2)—

9 (i) by striking “, in consultation with
10 and based on criteria established by the
11 Commandant of the Coast Guard”; and

12 (ii) by striking “subsection on a com-
13 petitive basis” and inserting the following:
14 “subsection—

15 “(A) on a competitive basis; and

16 “(B) based on criteria developed in con-
17 sultation with the Commandant of the Coast
18 Guard”; and

19 (C) in paragraph (4) by striking
20 “\$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023” and inserting
21 “to the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
22 ices \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
23 and 2026”; and

24 (2) in subsection (j)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, and
2 understanding and mitigating behavioral and
3 physical health risks, to include substance use
4 disorder and worker fatigue, facing members of
5 the commercial fishing industry” after “weather
6 detection”;

7 (B) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by striking “, in consultation with
9 and based on criteria established by the
10 Commandant of the Coast Guard,”; and

11 (ii) by striking “subsection on a com-
12 petitive basis” and inserting the following:

13 “subsection—

14 “(A) on a competitive basis; and

15 “(B) based on criteria developed in con-
16 sultation with the Commandant of the Coast
17 Guard”; and

18 (C) in paragraph (4) by striking
19 “\$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023” and inserting
20 “to the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
21 ices \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
22 and 2026”.

1 **SEC. 350. AUTHORITY OVER DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF**
2 **1974.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(a) of the Deepwater
4 Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1504(a)) is amended by
5 striking the first sentence and inserting “Notwithstanding
6 section 888(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
7 U.S.C. 468(b)), the Secretary shall have the authority to
8 issue regulations to carry out the purposes and provisions
9 of this Act, in accordance with the provisions of section
10 553 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to sub-
11 section (a) thereof.”.

12 (b) AFFIRMING THE AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF
13 TRANSPORTATION OVER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—
14 Section 5(f) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C.
15 1504(f) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(f) COMPLIANCE.—Notwithstanding section 888(b)
17 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(b)),
18 the Secretary, in cooperation with other involved Federal
19 agencies and departments, shall comply with the National
20 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
21 seq.) and act as the lead agency under section 4336a of
22 title 42, United States Code, for all applications under this
23 Act. Such compliance shall fulfill the requirement of all
24 Federal agencies in carrying out their responsibilities
25 under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 pur-
26 suant to this chapter.”.

1 (c) REGULATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
3 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
4 mandant shall transfer the authorities provided to
5 the Coast Guard in part 148 of title 33, Code of
6 Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the
7 enactment of this Act), except as provided in para-
8 graph (2), to the Secretary of Transportation.

9 (2) RETENTION OF AUTHORITY.—The Com-
10 mandant shall retain responsibility for authorities
11 pertaining to design, construction, equipment, and
12 operation of deepwater ports and navigational safe-
13 ty.

14 (3) UPDATES TO AUTHORITY.—As soon as
15 practicable after the date of enactment of this Act,
16 the Secretary shall issue such regulations as are nec-
17 essary to reflect the updates to authorities pre-
18 scribed by this subsection.

19 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
20 tion, or the amendments made by this section, may be con-
21 strued to limit the authorities of other governmental agen-
22 cies previously delegated authorities of the Deepwater
23 Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

1 (e) APPLICATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall
2 apply to any application submitted before the date of en-
3 actment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 351. NATIONAL OFFSHORE SAFETY ADVISORY COM-**
5 **MITTEE COMPOSITION.**

6 Section 15106(c) of title 46, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “15 members”
9 and inserting “17 members”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (3) by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 “(L) 2 members shall represent entities
13 engaged in non-mineral energy activities on the
14 Outer Continental Shelf.”.

15 **SEC. 352. IMPROVING VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE MONI-**
16 **TORING.**

17 (a) PROXIMITY OF ANCHORAGES TO PIPELINES.—

18 (1) IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRUCTURING
19 PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of en-
20 actment of this Act, the Commandant shall imple-
21 ment the November 2021 proposed plan of the Ves-
22 sel Traffic Service Los Angeles-Long Beach for re-
23 structuring the Federal anchorages in San Pedro
24 Bay described on page 54 of the Report of the Na-
25 tional Transportation Safety Board titled “Anchor

1 Strike of Underwater Pipeline and Eventual Crude
2 Oil Release” and issued January 2, 2024.

3 (2) STUDY.—The Secretary of the department
4 in which the Coast Guard is operating shall conduct
5 a study to identify any anchorage grounds other
6 than the San Pedro Bay Federal anchorages in
7 which the distance between the center of an ap-
8 proved anchorage ground and a pipeline is less than
9 1 mile.

10 (3) REPORT.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
13 Commandant shall submit to the Committee on
14 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
15 of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
16 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
17 ate a report on the results of the study required
18 under paragraph (2).

19 (B) CONTENTS.—The report under sub-
20 paragraph (A) shall include—

21 (i) a list of the anchorage grounds de-
22 scribed under paragraph (2);

23 (ii) whether it is possible to move each
24 such anchorage ground to provide a min-
25 imum distance of 1 mile; and

1 (iii) a recommendation of whether to
2 move any such anchorage ground and ex-
3 planation for the recommendation.

4 (b) PROXIMITY TO PIPELINE ALERTS.—

5 (1) AUDIBLE AND VISUAL ALARMS.—The Com-
6 mandant shall consult with the providers of vessel
7 monitoring systems to add to the monitoring sys-
8 tems for vessel traffic services audible and visual
9 alarms that alert the watchstander when an an-
10 chored vessel is encroaching on a pipeline.

11 (2) NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES.—Not later
12 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
13 the Commandant shall develop procedures for all
14 vessel traffic services to notify pipeline and utility
15 operators following potential incursions on sub-
16 merged pipelines within the vessel traffic service
17 area of responsibility.

18 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-
20 after, the Commandant shall submit to the Com-
21 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
22 House of Representatives and the Committee on
23 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
24 ate a report on the implementation of paragraphs
25 (1) and (2).

1 **SEC. 353. ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSEL REMOVALS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 46, United
3 States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in the chapter heading by striking
5 “**BARGES**” and inserting “**VESSELS**”;

6 (2) by inserting before section 4701 the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “SUBCHAPTER I—BARGES”; AND

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

10 “SUBCHAPTER II—NON-BARGE VESSELS

11 **“§ 4710. Definitions**

12 “In this subchapter:

13 “(1) ABANDON.—The term ‘abandon’ means to
14 moor, strand, wreck, sink, or leave a covered vessel
15 unattended for longer than 45 days.

16 “(2) COVERED VESSEL.—The term ‘covered
17 vessel’ means a vessel that is not a barge to which
18 subchapter I applies.

19 “(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
20 has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the
21 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
22 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

23 **“§ 4711. Abandonment of vessels prohibited**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An owner or operator of a cov-
25 ered vessel may not abandon such vessel on the navigable
26 waters of the United States.

1 “(b) DETERMINATION OF ABANDONMENT.—

2 “(1) NOTIFICATION.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a cov-
4 ered vessel that appears to be abandoned, the
5 Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

6 “(i) attempt to identify the owner
7 using the vessel registration number, hull
8 identification number, or any other infor-
9 mation that can be reasonably inferred or
10 gathered; and

11 “(ii) notify such owner—

12 “(I) of the penalty described in
13 subsection (c); and

14 “(II) that the vessel will be re-
15 moved at the expense of the owner if
16 the Commandant determines that the
17 vessel is abandoned and the owner
18 does not remove or account for the
19 vessel.

20 “(B) FORM.—The Commandant shall pro-
21 vide the notice required under subparagraph
22 (A)—

23 “(i) if the owner can be identified, via
24 certified mail or other appropriate forms
25 determined by the Commandant; or

1 “(ii) if the owner cannot be identified,
2 via an announcement in a local publication
3 and on a website maintained by the Coast
4 Guard.

5 “(2) DETERMINATION.—The Commandant
6 shall make a determination not earlier than 45 days
7 after the date on which the Commandant provides
8 the notification required under paragraph (1) of
9 whether a covered vessel described in such para-
10 graph is abandoned.

11 “(c) PENALTY.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may as-
13 sess a civil penalty of not more than \$500 against
14 an owner or operator of a covered vessel determined
15 to be abandoned under subsection (b) for a violation
16 of subsection (a).

17 “(2) LIABILITY IN REM.—The owner or oper-
18 ator of a covered vessel shall also be liable in rem
19 for a penalty imposed under paragraph (1).

20 “(d) VESSELS NOT ABANDONED.—The Commandant
21 may not determine that a covered vessel is abandoned
22 under this section if—

23 “(1) such vessel is located at a federally ap-
24 proved or State approved mooring area;

1 “(2) such vessel is located on private property
2 with the permission of the owner of such property;

3 “(3) the owner or operator of such vessel pro-
4 vides a notification to the Commandant that—

5 “(A) indicates the location of the vessel;

6 “(B) indicates that the vessel is not aban-
7 doned; and

8 “(C) contains documentation proving that
9 the vessel is allowed to be in such location; or

10 “(4) the Commandant determines that such an
11 abandonment determination would not be in the
12 public interest.

13 **“§ 4712. Inventory of abandoned vessels**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
15 date of enactment of this section, the Commandant, in
16 consultation with the Administrator of the National Oce-
17 anic and Atmospheric Administration and relevant State
18 agencies, shall establish and maintain a national inventory
19 of covered vessels that are abandoned.

20 “(b) CONTENTS.—The inventory established and
21 maintained under subsection (a) shall include data on each
22 vessel, including geographic information system data re-
23 lated to the location of each such vessel.

1 “(c) PUBLICATION.—The Commandant shall make
2 the inventory established under subsection (a) publicly
3 available on a website of the Coast Guard.

4 “(d) REPORTING OF POTENTIALLY ABANDONED
5 VESSELS.—In carrying out this section, the Commandant
6 shall develop a process by which—

7 “(1) a State, Indian Tribe, or person may re-
8 port a covered vessel that may be abandoned to the
9 Commandant for potential inclusion in the inventory
10 established under subsection (a); and

11 “(2) the Commandant shall review any such re-
12 port and add such vessel to the inventory if the
13 Commandant determines that the reported vessel is
14 abandoned pursuant to section 4711.”.

15 (b) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of the department
16 in which the Coast Guard is operating, in consultation
17 with the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief
18 of Engineers, and the Secretary of Commerce, acting
19 through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere,
20 shall issue regulations with respect to the procedures for
21 determining that a vessel is abandoned for the purposes
22 of subchapter II of chapter 47 of title 46, United States
23 Code (as added by this section).

24 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 47 of title
25 46, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in section 4701—

2 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
3 by striking “chapter” and inserting “sub-
4 chapter”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2) by striking “chapter”
6 and inserting “subchapter”;

7 (2) in section 4703 by striking “chapter” and
8 inserting “subchapter”;

9 (3) in section 4704 by striking “chapter” each
10 place it appears and inserting “subchapter”; and

11 (4) in section 4705 by striking “chapter” and
12 inserting “subchapter”.

13 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for
14 chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) by inserting before the item relating to sec-
16 tion 4701 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER I—BARGES”; AND

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

“SUBCHAPTER II—NON-BARGE VESSELS

“4710. Definitions.

“4711. Abandonment of vessels prohibited.

“4712. Inventory of abandoned vessels.”.

18 **SEC. 354. ANCHORAGES.**

19 Section 8437 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry
20 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021
21 (Public Law 116–283) is amended—

22 (1) by striking subsections (d) and (e);

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
2 section (d); and

3 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(c) PROHIBITION.—The Commandant shall prohibit
6 any vessel anchoring on the reach of the Hudson River
7 described in subsection (a) unless such anchoring is within
8 any anchorage established before January 1, 2021.”.

9 **TITLE IV—OIL POLLUTION** 10 **INCIDENT LIABILITY**

11 **SEC. 401. VESSEL RESPONSE PLANS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 311(j)(6) of the Federal
13 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)(6)) is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 “(6) EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS,
16 VERIFICATION, AND INSPECTION.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may re-
18 quire—

19 “(i) periodic inspection of containment
20 booms, skimmers, vessels, and other major
21 equipment used to remove discharges;

22 “(ii) periodic inspection of vessels, sal-
23 vage and marine firefighting equipment,
24 and other major equipment used to re-

1 spond to marine casualties or prevent dis-
2 charges;

3 “(iii) periodic verification of capabili-
4 ties to appropriately, and in a timely man-
5 ner, respond to a marine casualty, a worst
6 case discharge, or a substantial threat of a
7 discharge, including—

8 “(I) drills, with or without prior
9 notice;

10 “(II) review of contracts and rel-
11 evant third-party agreements;

12 “(III) testing of equipment;

13 “(IV) review of training; and

14 “(V) other evaluations of re-
15 sponse capabilities, as determined ap-
16 propriate by the President; and

17 “(iv) vessels operating on navigable
18 waters and carrying oil or a hazardous
19 substance in bulk as cargo, and nontank
20 vessels carrying oil of any kind as fuel for
21 main propulsion, to carry appropriate re-
22 moval equipment that employs the best
23 technology economically feasible and that
24 is compatible with the safe operation of the
25 vessel.

1 “(B) MARINE CASUALTY.—In this para-
2 graph, the term ‘marine casualty’ means a ma-
3 rine casualty that is required to be reported
4 pursuant to section 6101 of title 46, United
5 States Code.”.

6 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comp-
9 troller General of the United States shall submit to
10 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
11 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
12 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
13 Senate a report on the state of marine firefighting
14 authorities, jurisdiction, plan review, and other con-
15 siderations with respect to vessel fires at waterfront
16 facilities and within the navigable waters of the
17 United States up to 3 nautical miles from the shore-
18 line.

19 (2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1),
20 the Comptroller General shall—

21 (A) examine factors that affect Federal
22 and non-Federal collaboration aimed at reduc-
23 ing vessel and waterfront facility fire risk to
24 local communities;

1 (B) focus on the prevalence and frequency
2 of vessel fires described in paragraph (1); and
3 (C) make recommendations for prepared-
4 ness, responses to, training for, and other items
5 for consideration.

6 **SEC. 402. USE OF MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS.**

7 Section 6308 of title 46, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “initiated” and
10 inserting “conducted”; and

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

12 “(e) For purposes of this section, an administrative
13 proceeding conducted by the United States includes pro-
14 ceedings under section 7701 and claims adjudicated under
15 section 1013 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C.
16 2713).”.

17 **SEC. 403. TIMING OF REVIEW.**

18 Section 1017 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33
19 U.S.C. 2717) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(g) **TIMING OF REVIEW.**—Before the date of com-
22 pletion of a removal action, no person may bring an action
23 under this Act, section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution
24 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321), or chapter 7 of title 5,
25 United States Code, challenging any decision relating to

1 such removal action that is made by an on-scene coordi-
2 nator appointed under the National Contingency Plan.”.

3 **SEC. 404. ONLINE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the National Response Cen-
6 ter shall—

7 (1) develop an online capacity through a web-
8 based application to receive a notification of an oil
9 discharge or release of a hazardous substance; and

10 (2) allow any such notification to the National
11 Response Center that is required under Federal law
12 or regulation to be made online using the applica-
13 tion.

14 (b) USE OF APPLICATION.—In carrying out sub-
15 section (a), the National Response Center may not require
16 the notification of an oil discharge or release of a haz-
17 ardous substance to be made using the application devel-
18 oped under such subsection.

1 **TITLE V—IMPLEMENTATION OF**
2 **ACCOUNTABILITY AND**
3 **TRANSPARENCY REVIEW REC-**
4 **OMMENDATIONS**

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 fol-
9 lowing:

10 **“§ 5116. Implementation status of directed actions**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2025,
12 and not later than March 1 of each of the 3 subsequent
13 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the
14 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
15 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
16 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
17 on the status of the implementation of each directed action
18 outlined in enclosure 1 of the memorandum of the Com-
19 mandant titled ‘Commandant’s Directed Actions—Ac-
20 countability and Transparency’, dated November 27,
21 2023.

22 “(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under section
23 (a) shall contain the following:

24 “(1) The status of the implementation of each
25 directed action from enclosure 1 of the memorandum

1 titled ‘Commandant’s Directed Actions—Account-
2 ability and Transparency’ dated November 27, 2023.

3 “(2) A plan and timeline for the next steps to
4 be taken to complete outstanding directed actions in
5 enclosure 1 of the memorandum titled ‘Com-
6 mandant’s Directed Actions—Accountability and
7 Transparency’ dated November 27, 2023, including
8 identifying the individual the Commandant has se-
9 lected to ensure the successful completion of each di-
10 rected action.

11 “(3) Metrics to determine the effectiveness of
12 each directed action in such enclosure.

13 “(4) Any additional actions the Commandant is
14 taking to mitigate instances of sexual assault and
15 sexual harassment within the Coast Guard.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
17 ter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by add-
18 ing at the end the following:

“5116. Implementation status of directed actions.”.

19 **SEC. 502. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF COAST GUARD RE-**
20 **FORMS.**

21 (a) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
22 PORT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
25 General of the United States shall report to the

1 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
2 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
3 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
4 ate on the efforts of the Coast Guard to mitigate
5 cases of sexual assault and sexual harassment within
6 the service.

7 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
8 paragraph (1) shall—

9 (A) evaluate—

10 (i) the efforts of the Commandant to
11 implement the directed actions from enclo-
12 sure 1 of the memorandum titled “Com-
13 mandant’s Directed Actions—Account-
14 ability and Transparency” dated November
15 27, 2023;

16 (ii) whether the Commandant met the
17 reporting requirements under section 5112
18 of title 14, United States Code; and

19 (iii) the effectiveness of the actions of
20 the Coast Guard, including efforts outside
21 of the actions described in the memo-
22 randum titled “Commandant’s Directed
23 Actions—Accountability and Trans-
24 parency” dated November 27, 2023, to
25 mitigate instances of sexual assault and

1 sexual harassment and improve the en-
2 forcement relating to such instances within
3 the Coast Guard, and how the Coast
4 Guard is overcoming challenges in imple-
5 menting such actions.

6 (B) make recommendations to the Com-
7 mandant for improvements to the efforts of the
8 service to mitigate instances of sexual assault
9 and sexual harassment and improve the en-
10 forcement relating to such instances within the
11 Coast Guard; and

12 (C) make recommendations to the Com-
13 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
14 the House of Representatives and the Com-
15 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
16 tation of the Senate to mitigate instances of
17 sexual assault and sexual harassment in the
18 Coast Guard and improve the enforcement re-
19 lating to such instances within the Coast
20 Guard, including proposed changes to any legis-
21 lative authorities.

22 (b) REPORT BY COMMANDANT.—Not later than 90
23 days after the date on which the Comptroller General com-
24 pletes all actions under subsection (a), the Commandant
25 shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and In-

1 frastructure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
 2 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
 3 Senate a report that includes the following:

4 (1) A plan for Coast Guard implementation, in-
 5 cluding interim milestones and timeframes, of any
 6 recommendation made by the Comptroller General
 7 under subsection (a)(2)(B) with which the Com-
 8 mandant concurs.

9 (2) With respect to any recommendation made
 10 under subsection (a)(2)(B) with which the Com-
 11 mandant does not concur, an explanation of the rea-
 12 sons why the Commandant does not concur.

13 **SEC. 503. REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CERTAIN RECORDS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 14, United
 15 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 16 lowing:

17 **“§ 955. Requirement to maintain certain records**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain
 19 all work product related to documenting a disposition deci-
 20 sion on an investigation by the Coast Guard Investigative
 21 Service or other law enforcement entity investigating a
 22 Coast Guard member accused of an offense against chap-
 23 ter 47 of title 10.

24 “(b) RECORD RETENTION PERIOD.—Work product
 25 documents and the case action summary described in sub-

1 section (c) shall be maintained for a period of not less
2 than 7 years from date of the disposition decision.

3 “(c) CASE ACTION SUMMARY.—Upon a final disposi-
4 tion action for cases described in subsection (a), except
5 for offenses of wrongful use or possession of a controlled
6 substance under section 912a of title 10 (article 112a of
7 the Uniform Code of Military Justice) where the member
8 accused is an officer of pay grade O-4 and below or an
9 enlisted member of pay grade E-7 and below, a convening
10 authority shall sign a case action summary that includes
11 the following:

12 “(1) The disposition actions.

13 “(2) The name and command of the referral
14 authority.

15 “(3) Records documenting when a referral au-
16 thority consulted with a staff judge advocate or spe-
17 cial trial counsel, as applicable, before a disposition
18 action was taken, to include the recommendation of
19 the staff judge advocate or special trial counsel.

20 “(4) A reference section listing the materials re-
21 viewed in making a disposition decision.

22 “(5) The Coast Guard Investigative Service re-
23 port of investigation.

1 “(6) The completed Coast Guard Investigative
2 Service report of adjudication included as an enco-
3 sure.

4 “(d) WORK PRODUCT.—In this section, the term
5 ‘work product’ includes—

6 “(1) a prosecution memorandum;

7 “(2) emails, notes, and other correspondence re-
8 lated to a disposition decision; and

9 “(3) the contents described in paragraphs (1)
10 through (6) of subsection (c).

11 “(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section au-
12 thorizes or requires, or shall be construed to authorize or
13 require, the discovery, inspection, or production of reports,
14 memoranda, or other internal documents or work product
15 generated by counsel, an attorney for the government, or
16 their assistants or representatives.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
18 ter 9 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by add-
19 ing at the end the following:

 “955. Requirement to maintain certain records.”.

20 **SEC. 504. STUDY ON COAST GUARD ACADEMY OVERSIGHT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in con-
23 sultation with relevant stakeholders, shall conduct a study
24 on the governance of the Coast Guard Academy, including
25 examining the roles, responsibilities, authorities, advisory

1 functions, and membership qualifications and expertise of
2 the Board of Visitors and Board of Trustees of such Acad-
3 emy.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit
6 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
7 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
8 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
9 written report that contains—

10 (1) the results of the study required under sub-
11 section (a); and

12 (2) recommendations to improve governance at
13 the Coast Guard Academy.

14 **SEC. 505. PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF A CADET**
15 **WHO IS THE VICTIM OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT**
16 **OR RELATED OFFENSE.**

17 Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is
18 amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(f) CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR TRANSFER
20 OF CADET WHO IS THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR
21 RELATED OFFENSE.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall
23 provide for timely consideration of and action on a
24 request submitted by a cadet appointed to the Coast
25 Guard Academy who is the victim of an alleged sex-

1 ual assault or other offense covered by section 920,
2 920c, or 930 of title 10 (article 120, 120c, or 130
3 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) for transfer
4 to a Service Academy or to enroll in a Senior Re-
5 serve Officers' Training Corps program affiliated
6 with another institution of higher education.

7 “(2) RULEMAKING.—The Commandant shall
8 prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection
9 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 ex-
15 peditiously as practicable for review and action
16 by the Superintendent;

17 “(B) direct the Superintendent of the
18 Coast Guard Academy, in coordination with the
19 Superintendent of the Service Academy to
20 which 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
2 transfer unless there are exceptional cir-
3 cumstances that require denial of the re-
4 quest; and

5 “(iii) upon approval of such request,
6 to take all necessary and appropriate ac-
7 tion to effectuate the transfer of the cadet
8 to the Service Academy concerned as expe-
9 ditiously as possible; and

10 “(C) direct the Superintendent of the
11 Coast Guard Academy, in coordination with the
12 Secretary of the military department that spon-
13 sors the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training
14 Corps program at the institution of higher edu-
15 cation to 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 en-
5 rollment in the institution of higher edu-
6 cation to which the cadet wishes to trans-
7 fer and to process the cadet for participa-
8 tion in the relevant Senior Reserve Offi-
9 cers’ Training Corps program as expedi-
10 tiously as possible.

11 “(3) DENIAL OF TRANSFER REQUEST.—If the
12 Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy denies
13 a request for transfer under this subsection, the
14 cadet may request review of the denial by the Sec-
15 retary of the Department in which the Coast Guard
16 is operating, who shall act on such request not later
17 than 72 hours after receipt of the formal request for
18 review.

19 “(4) CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS.—The
20 Secretary of the Department in which the Coast
21 Guard is operating shall ensure that all records of
22 any request, determination, transfer, or other action
23 under this subsection remain confidential, consistent
24 with applicable law and regulation.

1 “(5) APPOINTMENT TO SERVICE ACADEMY.—A
2 cadet who transfers under this subsection may retain
3 the cadet’s appointment to the Coast Guard Acad-
4 emy or may be appointed to the Service Academy to
5 which the cadet transfers without regard to the limi-
6 tations and requirements described in sections 7442,
7 8454, and 9442 of title 10.

8 “(6) APPOINTMENT UPON GRADUATION.—

9 “(A) PREFERENCE.—A cadet who trans-
10 fers under this subsection to a Service Acad-
11 emy, is entitled, before graduating from such
12 Academy, to state the preference of the cadet
13 for appointment, upon graduation, as a com-
14 missioned officer in the Coast Guard.

15 “(B) MANNER OF APPOINTMENT.—Upon
16 graduation, a cadet described in subparagraph
17 (A) is entitled to be accepted for appointment
18 as a permanent commissioned officer in the
19 Regular Coast Guard in the same manner as
20 graduates of the Coast Guard Academy as de-
21 scribed in section 2101.

22 “(7) COMMISSION INTO COAST GUARD.—A
23 cadet who transfers under this subsection to a Sen-
24 ior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program affili-
25 ated with another institution of higher education is

1 entitled upon graduation from the Senior Reserve
 2 Officers' Training program to commission into the
 3 Coast Guard as described in section 3738a.

4 “(8) SERVICE ACADEMY DEFINED.—In this
 5 subsection, the term ‘Service Academy’ has the
 6 meaning given such term in section 347 of title 10.”.

7 **SEC. 506. DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS WITH PARTICULAR**
 8 **EXPERTISE IN MILITARY JUSTICE OR**
 9 **HEALTHCARE.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 21 of title
 11 14, United States Code is amended by adding at the end
 12 the following:

13 **“§ 2132. Designation of officers with particular exper-**
 14 **tise in military justice or healthcare**

15 “(a) SECRETARY DESIGNATION.—The Secretary may
 16 designate a limited number of officers of the Coast Guard
 17 as having particular expertise in—

18 “(1) military justice; or

19 “(2) healthcare.

20 “(b) PROMOTION AND GRADE.—An individual des-
 21 ignated under this section—

22 “(1) shall not be included on the active duty
 23 promotion list;

24 “(2) shall be promoted under section 2126; and

1 “(3) may not be promoted to a grade higher
2 than captain.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
4 ter 21 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by in-
5 serting after the item relating to section 2131 the fol-
6 lowing:

 “2132. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or
 healthcare.”.

7 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

8 (1) Section 2102(a) of title 14, United States
9 Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by strik-
10 ing “and officers of the permanent commissioned
11 teaching staff of the Coast Guard Academy” and in-
12 serting “officers of the permanent commissioned
13 teaching staff of the Coast Guard Academy, and of-
14 ficers designated by the Secretary pursuant to sec-
15 tion 2132”.

16 (2) Subsection (e) of section 2103 of title 14,
17 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

18 “(e) SECRETARY TO PRESCRIBE NUMBERS FOR CER-
19 TAIN OFFICERS.—The Secretary shall prescribe the num-
20 ber of officers authorized to be serving on active duty in
21 each grade of—

22 “(1) the permanent commissioned teaching
23 staff of the Coast Guard Academy;

1 “(2) the officers designated by the Secretary
2 pursuant to section 2132; and

3 “(3) the officers of the Reserve serving in con-
4 nection with organizing, administering, recruiting,
5 instructing, or training the reserve components.”.

6 (3) Section 2126 of title 14, United States
7 Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by insert-
8 ing “and as to officers designated by the Secretary
9 pursuant to section 2132” after “reserve compo-
10 nents”.

11 (4) Section 3736(a) of title 14, United States
12 Code, is amended—

13 (A) in the first sentence by striking “pro-
14 motion list and the” and inserting “promotion
15 list, officers designated by the Secretary pursu-
16 ant to section 2132, and the officers on the”;
17 and

18 (B) in the second sentence by striking
19 “promotion list or the” and inserting “pro-
20 motion list, officers designated by the Secretary
21 pursuant to section 2132, or the officers on
22 the”.

1 **SEC. 507. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PER-**
2 **SONNEL OF COAST GUARD.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title
4 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“§ 2517. Direct hire authority for certain personnel of**
7 **Coast Guard**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may appoint,
9 without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter
10 33 of title 5 (other than section 3303 and 3328 of such
11 chapter), qualified candidates to any non-clinical specialist
12 intended to engage in the integrated primary prevention
13 of harmful behaviors, including suicide, sexual assault,
14 harassment, domestic abuse, and child abuse and qualified
15 candidates to any criminal investigative law enforcement
16 position of the Coast Guard Criminal Investigative Service
17 intended to engage in the primary response to such harm-
18 ful behaviors.

19 “(b) SUNSET.—Effective on September 30, 2034, the
20 authority provided under subsection (a) shall cease.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
22 ter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by in-
23 serting after the item related to section 2516 the fol-
24 lowing:

“2517. Direct hire authority for certain personnel of United States Coast
Guard.”.

1 **SEC. 508. SAFE-TO-REPORT POLICY FOR COAST GUARD.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 19 of title
3 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 **“§ 1908. Safe-to-report policy for Coast Guard**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department
7 in which the Coast Guard is operating shall, in consulta-
8 tion with the Secretaries of the military departments, issue
9 such regulations as are necessary to establish the safe-to-
10 report policy described in subsection (b) that applies with
11 respect to all members of the Coast Guard (including
12 members of the reserve and auxiliary components of the
13 Coast Guard) and cadets at the Coast Guard Academy.

14 “(b) SAFE-TO-REPORT POLICY.—The safe-to-report
15 policy described in this subsection is a policy that pre-
16 scribes the handling of minor collateral misconduct involv-
17 ing a member of the Coast Guard who is the alleged victim
18 or reporting witness of a sexual assault.

19 “(c) MITIGATING AND AGGRAVATING CIR-
20 CUMSTANCES.—In issuing regulations under subsection
21 (a), the Secretary shall specify mitigating circumstances
22 that decrease the gravity of minor collateral misconduct
23 or the impact of such misconduct on good order and dis-
24 cipline and aggravating circumstances that increase the
25 gravity of minor collateral misconduct or the impact of

1 such misconduct on good order and discipline for purposes
2 of the safe-to-report policy.

3 “(d) TRACKING OF COLLATERAL MISCONDUCT INCIDENTS.—In conjunction with the issuance of regulations
4 DENTS.—In conjunction with the issuance of regulations
5 under subsection (a), Secretary shall develop and imple-
6 ment a process to anonymously track incidents of minor
7 collateral misconduct that are subject to the safe-to-report
8 policy established under such regulations.

9 “(e) MINOR COLLATERAL MISCONDUCT DEFINED.—
10 In this section, the term ‘minor collateral misconduct’
11 means any minor misconduct that is punishable under
12 chapter 47 of title 10 that—

13 “(1) is committed close in time to or during a
14 sexual assault and directly related to the incident
15 that formed the basis of the sexual assault allega-
16 tion;

17 “(2) is discovered as a direct result of the re-
18 port of sexual assault or the ensuing investigation
19 into such sexual assault; and

20 “(3) does not involve aggravating circumstances
21 (as specified in the regulations issued under sub-
22 section (a)) that increase the gravity of the minor
23 misconduct or the impact of such misconduct on
24 good order and discipline.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
 2 ter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended
 3 by inserting after the item relating to section 1907 (as
 4 added by this Act) the following:

“1908. Safe-to-report policy for Coast Guard.”.

5 **SEC. 509. MODIFICATION OF DELIVERY DATE OF COAST**
 6 **GUARD SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORT.**

7 Section 5112(a) of title 14, United States Code, is
 8 amended by striking “January 15” and inserting “March
 9 1”.

10 **SEC. 510. HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEW OF BOARD OF DETER-**
 11 **MINATION DECISIONS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2158 of title 14, United
 13 States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in the first sentence by striking “The Sec-
 15 retary” and inserting the following:

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

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

18 “(b) HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEW OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
 19 CASES.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a board convened under
 21 this section determines that the officer should be re-
 22 tained when the officer’s record indicates that the
 23 officer has committed a sexual assault offense, the
 24 board shall forward the record of the proceedings
 25 and recommendation of the board for higher-level re-

1 view, in accordance with regulations prescribed by
2 the Secretary.

3 “(2) AUTHORITY.—The official exercising high-
4 er-level review shall have authority to forward the
5 case for consideration by a Board of Inquiry in ac-
6 cordance with section 2159.

7 “(c) SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENSE DEFINED.—In this
8 section, the term ‘sexual assault offense’ means a violation
9 of section 920 or 920b of title 10, United States Code
10 (article 120 or 120b of the Uniform Code of Military Jus-
11 tice) or attempt to commit an offense specified under sec-
12 tion 920 or 920b as punishable under section 880 of such
13 title (article 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).”.

14 **SEC. 511. REVIEW OF DISCHARGE OR DISMISSAL.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title
16 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at
17 the end the following:

18 **“§ 2518. Review of discharge or dismissal**

19 “(a) DOWNGRADE.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the require-
21 ments of section 1553 of title 10, a board of review
22 for a former member of the Coast Guard established
23 pursuant to such section may, upon a motion of the
24 board and subject to review by the Secretary of the
25 department in which the Coast Guard is operating,

1 downgrade an honorable discharge or dismissal to a
2 general (under honorable conditions) discharge or
3 dismissal upon a finding that a former member of
4 the Coast Guard, while serving on active duty as a
5 member of the armed forces, committed sexual as-
6 sault or sexual harassment in violation of section
7 920, 920b, or 934 of this title (article 120, 120b, or
8 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

9 “(2) EVIDENCE.—Any downgrade under para-
10 graph (1) shall be supported by clear and convincing
11 evidence.

12 “(3) LIMITATION.—The review board under
13 paragraph (1) may not downgrade a discharge or
14 dismissal of a former member of the Coast Guard if
15 the same action described in paragraph (1) was con-
16 sidered prior to separation from active duty by an
17 administrative board in determining the character-
18 ization of discharge as otherwise provided by law
19 and in accordance with regulations prescribed by the
20 Secretary of the Department in which the Coast
21 Guard is operating.

22 “(b) PROCEDURAL RIGHTS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A review by a board estab-
24 lished under section 1553 of title 10 shall be based
25 on the records of the armed forces concerned and

1 such other evidence as may be presented to the
2 board.

3 “(2) EVIDENCE BY WITNESS.—A witness may
4 present evidence to the board in person or by affi-
5 davit.

6 “(3) APPEARANCE BEFORE BOARD.—A person
7 who requests a review under this section may appear
8 before the board in person or by counsel or an ac-
9 credited representative of an organization recognized
10 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter
11 59 of title 38.

12 “(4) NOTIFICATION.—A former member of the
13 Coast Guard who is subject to a downgrade in dis-
14 charge characterization review under subsection
15 (b)(3) shall be notified in writing of such pro-
16 ceedings, afforded the right to obtain copies of
17 records and documents relevant to the proceedings,
18 and the right to appear before the board in person
19 or by counsel or an accredited representative of an
20 organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans
21 Affairs under chapter 59 of title 38.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
23 ter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended
24 by inserting after the item relating to section 2517 (as
25 added by this Act) the following:

“2518. Review of discharge or dismissal.”.

1 **SEC. 512. CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER AS GROUNDS FOR**
 2 **DENIAL.**

3 Section 7511(a) of title 46, United States Code, is
 4 amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “or”;

6 (2) in paragraph (2) by striking “State, local,
 7 or Tribal law” and inserting “Federal, State, local,
 8 or Tribal law”;

9 (3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 10 graph (3); and

11 (4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 12 lowing:

13 “(2) section 920 or 920b of title 10 (article 120
 14 and 120b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);
 15 or”.

16 **SEC. 513. COAST GUARD ACADEMY ROOM REASSIGNMENT.**

17 Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is fur-
 18 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(g) ROOM REASSIGNMENT.—Coast Guard Academy
 20 Cadets may request room reassignment if experiencing
 21 discomfort due to Coast Guard Academy rooming assign-
 22 ments.”

23 **TITLE VI—AMENDMENTS**

24 **SEC. 601. AMENDMENTS.**

25 (a) PROHIBITION ON ENTRY AND OPERATION.—Sec-
 26 tion 70022(b)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is

1 amended by striking “Federal Register” and inserting
2 “the Federal Register”.

3 (b) PORT, HARBOR, AND COASTAL FACILITY SECU-
4 RITY.—Section 70116(b) of title 46, United States Code,
5 is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “terrorism
7 cyber” and inserting “terrorism, cyber”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (2) by inserting a comma
9 after “acts of terrorism”.

10 (c) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE AND LOCAL OFFI-
11 CERS.—Section 70118(a) of title 46, United States Code,
12 is amended—

13 (1) by striking “section 1 of title II of the Act
14 of June 15, 1917 (chapter 30; 50 U.S.C. 191)” and
15 inserting “section 70051”; and

16 (2) by striking “section 7(b) of the Ports and
17 Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1226(b))” and in-
18 serting “section 70116(b)”.

19 (d) CHAPTER 701 DEFINITIONS.—Section 70131(2)
20 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

21 (1) by striking “section 1 of title II of the Act
22 of June 15, 1917 (50 U.S.C. 191)” and inserting
23 “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 (e) NOTICE OF ARRIVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VES-
5 SELS ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—

6 (1) PREPARATORY CONFORMING AMEND-
7 MENT.—Section 70001 of title 46, United States
8 Code, is amended by redesignating subsections (l)
9 and (m) as subsections (m) and (n), respectively.

10 (2) TRANSFER OF PROVISION.—Section 704 of
11 the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act
12 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 46 U.S.C. 70001 note)
13 is—

14 (A) amended by striking “of title 46,
15 United States Code,”;

16 (B) transferred to appear after 70001(k)
17 of title 46, United States Code; and

18 (C) redesignated as subsection (l).

19 (f) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is
20 amended as follows:

21 (1) Section 2101(2) is amended by striking
22 “section 1” and inserting “section 101”.

23 (2) Section 2116(b)(1)(D) is amended by strik-
24 ing “section 93(c)” and inserting “section 504(c)”.

1 (3) In the analysis for subtitle VII by striking
2 the period after “70001” in the item relating to
3 chapter 700.

4 (4) In the analysis for chapter 700 by striking
5 the item relating to section 70006 and inserting the
6 following:

“70006. Establishment by Secretary of the department in which the Coast
Guard is operating of anchorage grounds and regulations generally.”.

7 (5) In the heading for subchapter IV in the
8 analysis for chapter 700 by inserting a comma after
9 “DEFINITIONS”.

10 (6) In the heading for subchapter VI in the
11 analysis for chapter 700 by striking “OF THE
12 UNITED” and inserting “OF UNITED”.

13 (7) Section 70052(e)(1) is amended by striking
14 “section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United
15 States (46 U.S.C. App. 91)” and inserting “section
16 60105”.

17 (g) OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990.—The Oil Pollu-
18 tion Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) is amended as
19 follows:

20 (1) Section 1001(32)(G) (33 U.S.C.
21 2701(32)(G)) is amended by striking “pipeline” and
22 all that follows through “offshore facility” and in-
23 serting “pipeline, offshore facility”.

1 (2) Section 1016 (33 U.S.C. 2716) is amend-
2 ed—

3 (A) by redesignating subsections (e)
4 through (i) as subsections (d) through (h), re-
5 spectively; and

6 (B) in subsection (e)(1)(B), as redesign-
7 nated by subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
8 section (e)” and inserting “subsection (d)”.

9 (3) Section 1012(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 2712(b)(2))
10 is amended by striking “section 1016(f)(1)” and in-
11 serting “section 1016(e)(1)”.

12 (4) Section 1005(b)(5)(B) (33 U.S.C.
13 2705(b)(5)(B)) is amended by striking “section
14 1016(g)” and inserting “section 1016(f)”.

15 (5) Section 1018(c) (33 U.S.C. 2718(c)) is
16 amended by striking “the Act of March 3, 1851 (46
17 U.S.C. 183 et seq.)” and inserting “chapter 305 of
18 title 46, United States Code”.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.