

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4947

To improve passenger vessel security and safety, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To improve passenger vessel security and safety, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Cruise Passenger Protection Act of 2024”.

6 (b) REFERENCES TO TITLE 46, UNITED STATES
7 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever
8 in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
9 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-

1 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
 2 section or other provision of title 46, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

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

Sec. 1. Short title; references.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

**TITLE I—COVERED PASSENGER VESSEL CONSUMER SERVICE
AND PROTECTION**

Sec. 101. Covered passenger vessel consumer service improvements.

Sec. 102. Cruise line passenger bill of rights; advisory committee for covered
passenger vessel consumer protection.

Sec. 103. Assistance to victims of crimes on board certain passenger vessels.

Sec. 104. Clerical amendments.

TITLE II—CRUISE VESSEL PASSENGER IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 201. Cruise vessel chapter organization, application, and definitions.

Sec. 202. Crime reporting and public notice.

Sec. 203. Crime prevention, documentation, and response requirements.

Sec. 204. Passenger vessel security and safety requirements.

Sec. 205. Enforcement.

Sec. 206. Technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 207. Limitations in certain cases.

5 **TITLE I—COVERED PASSENGER**
 6 **VESSEL CONSUMER SERVICE**
 7 **AND PROTECTION**

8 **SEC. 101. COVERED PASSENGER VESSEL CONSUMER SERV-**
 9 **ICE IMPROVEMENTS.**

10 Subtitle II is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 11 lowing:

12 **“PART L—OFFICE OF MARITIME CONSUMER**
 13 **PROTECTION**

14 **“CHAPTER 161—OFFICE OF MARITIME**
 15 **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

“16101. Definitions.

“16102. Application.

“16103. Office of Maritime Consumer Protection.

“16104. Covered passenger vessel consumer service improvements.

“16105. Invalidation of pre-dispute arbitration and class action waiver clauses
in certain contracts relating to covered passenger vessel transportation.

1 **“§ 16101. Definitions**

2 “In this chapter:

3 “(1) APPLICABLE PASSENGER.—The term ‘ap-
4 plicable passenger’ means a passenger on a covered
5 passenger vessel who is a citizen of the United
6 States.

7 “(2) ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL.—The
8 term ‘Assistant General Counsel’ means the Assist-
9 ant General Counsel for the Office of Maritime Con-
10 sumer Protection.

11 “(3) COVERED PASSENGER VESSEL.—The term
12 ‘covered passenger vessel’ means a passenger vessel
13 or small passenger vessel to which this chapter ap-
14 plies, in accordance with section 16102 of this title.

15 “(4) KEY TERMS.—The term ‘key terms’ in-
16 cludes terms related to undisclosed costs and fees,
17 indemnification, waivers, limitations on liability, no-
18 tice of claim and actions, time limitations, arbitra-
19 tion, forum, and jurisdiction.

20 “(5) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Of-
21 fice of Maritime Consumer Protection.

1 “(6) OWNER.—The term ‘owner’ means the
2 owner, charterer, managing operator, master, or
3 other individual in charge of a vessel.

4 “(7) PASSAGE CONTRACT.—The term ‘passage
5 contract’ means a binding agreement for passage on
6 a covered passenger vessel.

7 “(8) SECRETARY.—Notwithstanding section
8 2101 of this title, the term ‘Secretary’ means the
9 Secretary of Transportation.

10 **“§ 16102. Application**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—This chapter applies to pas-
12 senger vessels and small passenger vessels.

13 “(b) FEDERAL AND STATE VESSELS.—This chapter
14 does not apply to—

15 “(1) a vessel of the United States operated by
16 the Federal Government; or

17 “(2) a vessel owned and operated by a State.

18 **“§ 16103. Office of Maritime Consumer Protection**

19 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
20 the Office of the General Counsel of the Department of
21 Transportation an Office of Maritime Consumer Protec-
22 tion.

23 “(b) HEAD.—The Office shall be headed by the As-
24 sistant General Counsel for the Office of Maritime Con-
25 sumer Protection.

1 “(c) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

2 “(1) serve as the primary entity of the Depart-
3 ment of Transportation with respect to consumer
4 protection issues relating to covered passenger ves-
5 sels (unless otherwise provided under law), includ-
6 ing—

7 “(A) carrying out the requirements of this
8 chapter;

9 “(B) providing assistance to the industry
10 regarding compliance assistance under this
11 chapter;

12 “(C) processing consumer complaints re-
13 garding the requirements of this chapter and
14 other consumer complaints regarding covered
15 passenger vessels;

16 “(D) inspecting covered passenger vessels
17 to ensure that owners of such vessels have
18 knowledge of the consumer protection require-
19 ments that apply;

20 “(E) investigating potential consumer pro-
21 tection violations regarding maritime travel;
22 and

23 “(F) pursuing enforcement of such viola-
24 tions; and

1 “(2) serve as the implementing office for the
 2 duties of the Secretary under section 102 of the
 3 Cruise Passenger Protection Act of 2024.

4 **“§ 16104. Covered passenger vessel consumer service**
 5 **improvements**

6 “(a) PASSAGE CONTRACTS.—

7 “(1) DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS.—

8 “(A) PASSENGER VESSELS.—Not later
 9 than 180 days after the date on which the advi-
 10 sory committee makes its recommendations
 11 under section 102(b)(6)(C) of the Cruise Pas-
 12 senger Protection Act of 2024, the Secretary,
 13 acting through the Assistant General Counsel,
 14 shall develop standards for use by an owner of
 15 a covered passenger vessel that is a passenger
 16 vessel or, subject to subparagraph (B), a small
 17 passenger vessel, to provide a prospective appli-
 18 cable passenger with a summary that highlights
 19 key terms in the passage contract and is pro-
 20 vided before such terms are binding.

21 “(B) SMALL PASSENGER VESSELS.—The
 22 Secretary shall determine the extent to which
 23 standards developed under subparagraph (A)
 24 shall apply with respect to passage contracts for
 25 small passenger vessels.

1 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the stand-
2 ards under paragraph (1), the Secretary may consult
3 with other Federal agencies, persons with expertise
4 on admiralty and maritime law, consumer advocates,
5 industry representatives, and such other persons as
6 the Secretary considers necessary.

7 “(3) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—The statute
8 of limitations for filing a lawsuit against the owner
9 of a covered passenger vessel, which shall not be
10 shorter than 3 years, shall be clearly identified in
11 the passage contract described in paragraph (1).

12 “(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The standards de-
13 veloped under paragraph (1) shall include rec-
14 ommendations regarding—

15 “(A) style, formatting, and placement that
16 ensures that the summary is conspicuous; and

17 “(B) terminology that ensures that the
18 summary is—

19 “(i) clear, unambiguous, and unmis-
20 takable; and

21 “(ii) to the greatest extent possible,
22 uniform, concise, and not complex.

23 “(5) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Secretary shall
24 periodically review and update, as appropriate, the
25 standards developed under paragraph (1).

1 “(6) REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning on the date
2 that is 180 days after the date on which the stand-
3 ards are developed under paragraph (1), an owner of
4 a covered passenger vessel shall—

5 “(A) provide each prospective applicable
6 passenger with a summary in accordance with
7 the standards that apply to the covered pas-
8 senger vessel under paragraph (1);

9 “(B) include a prominently accessible link
10 to the summary on each internet website that
11 the owner maintains for prospective applicable
12 passengers to purchase or book passage on the
13 covered passenger vessel; and

14 “(C) include the summary in any pro-
15 motional literature or advertising, through any
16 medium of communication in the United States
17 offering passage or soliciting applicable pas-
18 sengers for ocean voyages anywhere in the
19 world, that the Secretary considers necessary to
20 adequately notify a prospective applicable pas-
21 senger of the key terms in the passage contract
22 before such terms are binding.

23 “(7) PREEMPTION.—The standards developed
24 under paragraph (1) shall preempt any related State
25 standards that require a summary that provides less

1 information to a prospective applicable passenger
 2 than the information required to be provided under
 3 this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

4 “(b) COVERED PASSENGER VESSEL CONSUMER
 5 COMPLAINTS.—

6 “(1) TOLL-FREE HOTLINE AND INTERNET
 7 WEBSITE LINK FOR CONSUMER PASSENGER VESSEL
 8 COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary, acting through the
 9 Assistant General Counsel, shall—

10 “(A) establish a consumer complaints toll-
 11 free hotline telephone number for applicable
 12 passengers;

13 “(B) establish a consumer complaints link
 14 for use by applicable passengers on the internet
 15 website maintained under section 16106(i); and

16 “(C) notify the public of—

17 “(i) the telephone number established
 18 under subparagraph (A); and

19 “(ii) the internet website maintained
 20 under section 16106(i).

21 “(2) WEBSITE.—The Secretary, acting through
 22 the Assistant General Counsel, shall—

23 “(A) maintain a statistical compilation of
 24 all consumer complaints on the internet website
 25 under section 16106(i) that provides a numer-

1 ical accounting of each category of consumer
2 complaint;

3 “(B) update the data referred to in sub-
4 paragraph (A) not less frequently than monthly;

5 “(C) aggregate such data by covered pas-
6 senger vessel; and

7 “(D) identify each covered passenger vessel
8 by name.

9 “(3) INVESTIGATIONS OF CONSUMER COM-
10 PLAINTS.—The Secretary, acting through the Assist-
11 ant General Counsel and in coordination with other
12 relevant Federal agencies, may investigate consumer
13 complaints from applicable passengers, including—

14 “(A) cancellations, delays, and port skip-
15 ping;

16 “(B) lost, damaged, and delayed baggage;

17 “(C) conditions on board the covered pas-
18 senger vessel;

19 “(D) problems in obtaining refunds for un-
20 used or lost tickets or fare adjustments;

21 “(E) incorrect or incomplete information
22 about fares, discount fare conditions and avail-
23 ability, overcharges, and fare increases;

24 “(F) deceptive or misleading advertising;
25 and

1 “(G) compliance with Federal regulations.

2 “(4) REFERRAL TO FEDERAL OR STATE AGEN-
 3 CY.—The Secretary may refer any complaint re-
 4 ceived under this subsection to the Attorney General
 5 or a relevant Federal or State agency for action, as
 6 appropriate.

7 “(5) NOTICE TO PASSENGERS.—

8 “(A) INTERNET WEBSITES.—Each owner
 9 of a covered passenger vessel shall include, in a
 10 conspicuous location on each internet website
 11 that such owner maintains for applicable pas-
 12 sengers to purchase or book passage on the cov-
 13 ered passenger vessel—

14 “(i) the telephone number established
 15 under paragraph (1)(A);

16 “(ii) the consumer complaints link es-
 17 tablished under paragraph (1)(B); and

18 “(iii) any other information necessary
 19 for an applicable passenger to submit a
 20 consumer complaint for resolution.

21 “(B) BOARDING DOCUMENTATION.—The
 22 owner of a covered passenger vessel shall in-
 23 clude the telephone number and internet ad-
 24 dress of the link for consumer complaints estab-
 25 lished under paragraph (1) on—

1 “(i) any promotional literature or ad-
2 vertising, through any medium of commu-
3 nication in the United States offering pas-
4 sage or soliciting applicable passengers for
5 ocean voyages on covered passenger ves-
6 sels, that the Secretary considers necessary
7 to adequately notify such prospective pas-
8 senger of the telephone number and inter-
9 net address; and

10 “(ii) any electronic confirmation of
11 the purchase of passage on a covered pas-
12 senger vessel.

13 “(c) PENALTIES.—

14 “(1) CIVIL PENALTY.—The Secretary, acting
15 through the Assistant General Counsel, may impose
16 on any person that violates this section or a regula-
17 tion under this section a civil penalty of not more
18 than \$25,000 for each day during which the viola-
19 tion continues.

20 “(2) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Any person that
21 willfully violates this section or a regulation under
22 this section shall be fined not more than \$250,000
23 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

1 “(d) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary, acting through
 2 the Assistant General Counsel, shall issue such regulations
 3 as are necessary to implement this section.

4 **“§ 16105. Invalidation of pre-dispute arbitration and**
 5 **class action waiver clauses in certain**
 6 **contracts relating to covered passenger**
 7 **vessel transportation**

8 “(a) COVERED CONTRACT.—In this section, the term
 9 ‘covered contract’ means a contract for the purchase of
 10 a ticket for transportation on a covered passenger vessel.

11 “(b) ARBITRATION.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
 12 vision of law, arbitration may be used to settle a con-
 13 troversy arising from or relating to a provision of a cov-
 14 ered contract only if, after the controversy arises, all par-
 15 ties to the controversy consent, in writing, to use arbitra-
 16 tion to settle the controversy.

17 “(c) CLASS ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other
 18 provision of law, no predispute joint-action waiver shall
 19 be valid or enforceable with respect to any alleged claim
 20 regarding a covered contract.

21 “(d) COURT DETERMINATIONS.—An issue as to
 22 whether this section applies with respect to a dispute shall
 23 be determined under Federal law. The applicability of this
 24 section to an agreement to arbitrate and the validity and
 25 enforceability of a covered contract shall be determined by

1 a court, rather than an arbitrator, irrespective of whether
 2 the party resisting arbitration challenges the arbitration
 3 agreement specifically or in conjunction with other terms
 4 of the covered contract containing such agreement, and
 5 irrespective of whether the agreement purports to delegate
 6 such determinations to an arbitrator.

7 “(e) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply with
 8 respect to contracts entered into, or renewed, on or after
 9 the date of the enactment of the Cruise Passenger Protec-
 10 tion Act of 2024.”.

11 **SEC. 102. CRUISE LINE PASSENGER BILL OF RIGHTS; ADVI-**
 12 **SORY COMMITTEE FOR COVERED PAS-**
 13 **SENGER VESSEL CONSUMER PROTECTION.**

14 (a) BILL OF RIGHTS.—

15 (1) ENFORCEABILITY.—Not later than 180
 16 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
 17 Secretary of Transportation, acting through the As-
 18 sistant General Counsel for the Office of Maritime
 19 Consumer Protection, shall determine whether any
 20 of the enumerated rights in the international cruise
 21 line passenger bill of rights, which was adopted in
 22 2013 by the members of the Cruise Lines Inter-
 23 national Association, are enforceable under Federal
 24 law.

1 (2) REQUIRED STATEMENT.—The Secretary of
 2 Transportation, acting through the Assistant Gen-
 3 eral Counsel for the Office of Maritime Consumer
 4 Protection, shall include in the standards developed
 5 under section 16104(a) of title 46, United States
 6 Code, a statement informing a prospective pas-
 7 senger—

8 (A) which rights referred to in paragraph
 9 (1) are legally enforceable; and

10 (B) how a passenger or prospective pas-
 11 senger might pursue such enforcement, includ-
 12 ing identifying any action, including a private
 13 cause of action, an administrative action, or any
 14 other method of enforcement, that may be
 15 taken or pursued.

16 (b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR COVERED PAS-
 17 SENGER VESSEL CONSUMER PROTECTION.—

18 (1) DEFINITION OF COVERED PASSENGER VES-
 19 SEL.—In this subsection, the term “covered pas-
 20 senger vessel” means a passenger vessel or small
 21 passenger vessel to which chapter 161 of title 46,
 22 United States Code, applies.

23 (2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
 24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
 25 retary of Transportation, acting through the Assist-

1 ant General Counsel for the Office of Maritime Con-
2 sumer Protection, shall establish an advisory com-
3 mittee for covered passenger vessel consumer protec-
4 tion (referred to in this subsection as the “advisory
5 committee”) to advise the Secretary in carrying out
6 activities relating to passenger vessel customer serv-
7 ice improvements.

8 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—By not later than 180
10 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
11 the Secretary of Transportation shall appoint
12 the members of the advisory committee, which
13 shall be comprised of 1 representative each of—

14 (i) owners of passenger vessels, as de-
15 fined in section 2101 of title 46, United
16 States Code;

17 (ii) owners of small passenger vessels,
18 as defined in such section;

19 (iii) international industry-related as-
20 sociations;

21 (iv) State or local governments with
22 expertise in consumer protection matters;

23 (v) nonprofit public interest groups
24 with expertise in consumer protection mat-
25 ters;

1 (vi) nonprofit public interest groups
2 with expertise in victim assistance; and

3 (vii) relevant Federal agencies, as de-
4 termined by the Secretary of Transpor-
5 tation.

6 (B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the advi-
7 sory committee shall be filled in the manner in
8 which the original appointment was made.

9 (C) CHAIR.—The Secretary of Transpor-
10 tation shall designate, from among the individ-
11 uals appointed under subparagraph (A), an in-
12 dividual to serve as chair of the advisory com-
13 mittee.

14 (4) MEETINGS.—The advisory committee shall
15 meet at the call of the chair of the advisory com-
16 mittee, but not less frequently than annually.

17 (5) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the advi-
18 sory committee shall serve without pay, but shall re-
19 ceive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
20 subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of
21 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

22 (6) DUTIES.—The advisory committee shall—

23 (A) evaluate existing consumer protection
24 programs or services for covered passenger ves-
25 sels;

1 (B) recommend to the Secretary of Trans-
2 portation—

3 (i) improvements needed to the pro-
4 grams or services under subparagraph (A),
5 as necessary; and

6 (ii) any additional consumer protec-
7 tion programs or services for covered pas-
8 senger vessels, as necessary;

9 (C) not later than 1 year after the date on
10 which the committee is established under para-
11 graph (2), recommend to the Secretary of
12 Transportation which key terms in a passage
13 contract for a covered passenger vessel should
14 be highlighted before such terms are binding,
15 such as—

16 (i) products and services available on
17 board the covered passenger vessel for an
18 undisclosed cost or fee or that otherwise
19 are not included in the price of passage;

20 (ii) the country under which the cov-
21 ered passenger vessel is registered or
22 flagged;

23 (iii) a statement that, under certain
24 circumstances, a passenger on a covered

1 passenger vessel may be subject to the law
2 of a foreign country;

3 (iv) the covered passenger vessel may
4 not accept responsibility for any health
5 care services provided to a passenger by
6 medical staff on board the covered pas-
7 senger vessel;

8 (v) the maximum amount an owner of
9 a covered passenger vessel will reimburse a
10 passenger for lost or stolen property while
11 on board the passenger vessel; and

12 (vi) where to file a notice of claim or
13 initiate any legal action against the owner
14 of the covered passenger vessel; and

15 (D) annually for the 5-year period begin-
16 ning on the date on which the advisory com-
17 mittee is established, and periodically thereafter
18 as the advisory committee determines nec-
19 essary, review the recommendations described
20 in subparagraphs (B) and (C) and submit any
21 recommended updates to the Secretary of
22 Transportation.

23 (7) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30
24 days after the Secretary of Transportation receives
25 recommendations, including updated recommenda-

1 tions, under paragraph (6) from the advisory com-
 2 mittee, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
 3 port that contains—

4 (A) such recommendations of the advisory
 5 committee;

6 (B) an explanation of whether and how the
 7 industry has implemented each recommenda-
 8 tion; and

9 (C) for each recommendation not imple-
 10 mented, the industry’s reason for not imple-
 11 menting the recommendation.

12 (8) TERMINATION.—The advisory committee
 13 shall terminate on the date that is 15 years after the
 14 date of enactment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 103. ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF CRIMES ON BOARD**
 16 **CERTAIN PASSENGER VESSELS.**

17 (a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VIC-
 18 TIMS OF CRIMES ON BOARD PASSENGER VESSELS.—
 19 Chapter 161, as added by section 101 of this Act, is fur-
 20 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

21 **“§ 16106. Assistance to victims of crimes on board**
 22 **certain passenger vessels**

23 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
 24 provide to an applicable passenger who is an alleged victim
 25 of an incident described in section 3523(g)(3)(A)(i)—

1 “(1) a written summary of rights described in
2 subsection (e);

3 “(2) a primary point of contact within the Fed-
4 eral Government; and

5 “(3) a means of obtaining immediate, free, and
6 confidential support services.

7 “(b) DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a direc-
9 tor of victim support services of the Office.

10 “(2) DESIGNATION; PUBLIC OUTREACH.—

11 “(A) INTERIM DIRECTOR.—Not later than
12 30 days after the date of enactment of the
13 Cruise Passenger Protection Act of 2024, the
14 Secretary shall designate an employee of the
15 Department of Transportation as the interim
16 director of victim support services, who shall
17 serve in such position until a final designation
18 or appointment is made under subparagraph
19 (B).

20 “(B) FINAL DESIGNATION AND PUBLIC
21 OUTREACH.—Not later than 180 days after the
22 date of enactment of the Cruise Passenger Pro-
23 tection Act of 2024, the Secretary, in consulta-
24 tion with the Department of Justice and other
25 relevant Federal agencies, shall—

1 “(i) appoint an individual to serve as
2 the director of victim support; and

3 “(ii) determine an effective way to
4 publicize the toll-free telephone number
5 under subsection (c) and the availability of
6 support services under this section.

7 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The director of vic-
8 tim support services shall—

9 “(A) be responsible for acting as a primary
10 point of contact within the Federal Government
11 for any applicable passenger described in sub-
12 section (a);

13 “(B) coordinate with one or more non-
14 profit organizations or other entities that can
15 provide the types of support services described
16 in subsection (d);

17 “(C) establish a process for an applicable
18 passenger described in subsection (a) to obtain
19 the appropriate types of support services de-
20 scribed in subsection (d);

21 “(D) recommend a process for an applica-
22 ble passenger described in subsection (a) to ob-
23 tain an appropriate continuum of care;

24 “(E) recommend a process for an applica-
25 ble passenger described in subsection (a) to ob-

tain information on the status of any related criminal investigation;

“(F) develop guidance, consistent with the purpose of this section, for the security guide under section 3523(c)(1), including a process to ensure that an owner of a passenger vessel provides a copy of the security guide to an applicable passenger immediately after the vessel is notified that the passenger is an alleged victim of an incident described in section 3523(g)(3)(A)(i);

“(G) periodically update that guidance, as necessary; and

“(H) be the primary liaison between an applicable passenger described in subsection (a) and—

“(i) the owner of the passenger vessel;

“(ii) any relevant Federal agency;

“(iii) any relevant United States embassy or United States consulate; and

“(iv) any other person that the director of victim support services considers necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

1 “(c) TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER.—The Sec-
 2 retary shall establish a toll-free telephone number, avail-
 3 able 24 hours each day, that an applicable passenger de-
 4 scribed in subsection (a) can call to initiate the process
 5 under subsection (b)(3)(C).

6 “(d) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The director of victim
 7 support services shall determine the types of support serv-
 8 ices that an applicable passenger described in subsection
 9 (a) can obtain, such as—

10 “(1) directions on how to report an incident de-
 11 scribed in section 3523(g)(3)(A)(i) to appropriate
 12 authorities;

13 “(2) an explanation of, or assistance com-
 14 pleting, necessary forms to report an incident de-
 15 scribed in section 3523(g)(3)(A)(i);

16 “(3) an explanation of how, or assistance to,
 17 obtain support services under this section;

18 “(4) arranging, if appropriate, for mental
 19 health and counseling services;

20 “(5) arranging, if possible, for education re-
 21 garding and advocacy during applicable criminal jus-
 22 tice proceedings; and

23 “(6) communicating with that applicable pas-
 24 senger as to the roles of the organization or entities
 25 described in subsection (b)(3)(B), government agen-

1 cies, and the owner of the passenger vessel involved
2 with respect to the incident and the post-incident ac-
3 tivities.

4 “(e) SUMMARY OF RIGHTS.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of enactment of the Cruise Passenger Pro-
6 tection Act of 2024, the Secretary, acting through the As-
7 sistant General Counsel and in consultation with the De-
8 partment of Justice, other relevant Federal agencies, non-
9 profit public interest groups with expertise in victim as-
10 sistance, and such other persons that the Secretary con-
11 siders necessary, shall—

12 “(1) determine what rights an applicable pas-
13 senger described in subsection (a) may have under
14 law, such as the right to contact the Federal Bureau
15 of Investigation to report the crime, the right to con-
16 tact the director of victim support services, and the
17 right to speak confidentially to Federal law enforce-
18 ment, the director of victim support services, and
19 any other third-party victim advocate without any
20 representative or employee of the passenger vessel
21 present;

22 “(2) develop a written summary of those rights;
23 and

24 “(3) establish a process for an applicable pas-
25 senger described in subsection (a) to receive the

1 written summary of rights as soon as practicable
2 after an alleged incident described under section
3 3523(g)(3)(A)(i).

4 “(f) GUARDIANS AND RELATIVES.—If an applicable
5 passenger described in subsection (a) is deceased or is a
6 minor, or under such other circumstances that the director
7 of victim support services considers necessary, the director
8 may provide support services under this section to a
9 guardian or relative of that applicable passenger.

10 “(g) USE OF PASSENGER VESSEL RESOURCES.—As
11 appropriate, the resources of the passenger vessel shall be
12 used to the greatest extent possible to carry out the pur-
13 pose of this section.

14 “(h) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
15 section may be construed as limiting the obligations that
16 an owner of a passenger vessel may have in providing as-
17 sistance to an applicable passenger who is an alleged vic-
18 tim of an incident described under section
19 3523(g)(3)(A)(i).

20 “(i) AVAILABILITY OF INCIDENT DATA VIA INTER-
21 NET.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
23 through the Assistant General Counsel, shall main-
24 tain a statistical compilation of all incidents de-
25 scribed in section 3523(g)(3)(A) on an internet

1 website that provides a numerical accounting of the
2 missing persons and alleged crimes duly recorded in
3 each report filed under section 3523(g)(3). Each in-
4 cident described in section 3523(g)(3)(A) shall be in-
5 cluded in the statistical compilation irrespective of
6 its investigative status.

7 “(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall ensure
8 that the data described in paragraph (1)—

9 “(A) is updated not less frequently than
10 monthly;

11 “(B) is aggregated by cruise line;

12 “(C) identifies each cruise line by name;

13 “(D) identifies each crime and alleged
14 crime as to whether it was committed or alleg-
15 edly committed by a passenger or a crew mem-
16 ber;

17 “(E) identifies each crime and alleged
18 crime as to whether it was committed or alleg-
19 edly committed against a minor;

20 “(F) identifies the number of alleged indi-
21 viduals overboard; and

22 “(G) is compiled on the Internet website in
23 a user-friendly format.

24 “(3) ACCESS TO WEBSITE.—Each owner of a
25 passenger vessel shall include a prominently acces-

1 sible link to the internet website maintained by the
2 Office of Maritime Consumer Protection under para-
3 graph (1) on each Internet website that the owner
4 maintains for prospective applicable passengers to
5 purchase or book passage on the passenger vessel.

6 “(j) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue such
7 regulations as are necessary to implement this section.”.

8 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
9 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation,
10 acting through the Assistant General Counsel for the Of-
11 fice of Maritime Consumer Protection and in coordination
12 with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast
13 Guard is operating, the Attorney General, and heads of
14 other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

15 (1) conduct a study to determine the feasibility
16 of having an individual on board each passenger ves-
17 sel, or certain categories of passenger vessels, to
18 which chapter 161 applies to provide victim support
19 services, including the support services under section
20 16106(d) of title 46, United States Code, and re-
21 lated safety and security services, which includes
22 consideration of the cost, the benefit to passengers,
23 jurisdiction, and logistics; and

24 (2) report the findings of the study conducted
25 under paragraph (1) to Congress.

1 **SEC. 104. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) TITLE 46 TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of
3 chapters for subtitle II is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

“PART L—OFFICE OF MARITIME CONSUMER PROTECTION

“161. Office of Maritime Consumer Protection 16101”.

5 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at
6 the beginning of chapter 161, as added by section 101 of
7 this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

“16106. Assistance to victims of crimes on board certain passenger vessels.”.

9 **TITLE II—CRUISE VESSEL**
10 **PASSENGER IMPROVEMENTS**

11 **SEC. 201. CRUISE VESSEL CHAPTER ORGANIZATION, APPLI-**
12 **CATION, AND DEFINITIONS.**

13 (a) SUBCHAPTER ORGANIZATION.—Chapter 35 is
14 amended—

15 (1) by inserting before section 3501 the fol-
16 lowing:

17 **“Subchapter I—General Provisions”;**

18 (2) by inserting before section 3507 the fol-
19 lowing:

20 **“Subchapter II—Cruise Vessels”;**

21 and

1 (3) by redesignating sections 3507, 3508, 3509,
2 and 3510 as sections 3523, 3524, 3525, and 3526,
3 respectively.

4 (b) APPLICATION.—Chapter 35, as amended by sub-
5 section (a), is further amended by inserting before section
6 3523 the following:

7 **“§ 3521. Application**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—This subchapter applies to a
9 passenger vessel that—

10 “(1) is authorized to carry at least 250 pas-
11 sengers;

12 “(2) has onboard sleeping facilities for each
13 passenger; and

14 “(3) is on a voyage that embarks or disembarks
15 passengers in the United States.

16 “(b) FEDERAL AND STATE VESSELS.—Notwith-
17 standing subsection (a), this subchapter does not apply
18 to—

19 “(1) a vessel of the United States operated by
20 the Federal Government; or

21 “(2) a vessel owned and operated by a State.”.

22 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Chapter 35, as amended by sub-
23 sections (a) and (b), is further amended by inserting after
24 section 3521, as added by subsection (b), the following:

1 **“§ 3522. Definitions**

2 “In this subchapter:

3 “(1) EXTERIOR DECK.—The term ‘exterior
4 deck’ means any exterior weather deck on which a
5 passenger may be present, including passenger state-
6 room balconies, exterior promenades on passenger
7 decks, muster stations, and similar exterior weather
8 deck areas.

9 “(2) OWNER.—The term ‘owner’ means the
10 owner, charterer, managing operator, master, or
11 other individual in charge of a vessel.

12 “(3) APPLICABLE PASSENGER.—The term ‘ap-
13 plicable passenger’ means a passenger carried on a
14 passenger vessel who is a citizen of the United
15 States.

16 “(4) PHYSICIAN.—The term ‘physician’ means
17 a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathic medi-
18 cine who—

19 “(A) has at least 3 years of post-graduate,
20 post-registration experience in general and
21 emergency medicine; or

22 “(B) is certified by the American Board of
23 Medical Specialties, or any other certifying body
24 designated by the Secretary, in emergency med-
25 icine, family medicine, or internal medicine.

1 “(5) QUALIFIED MEDICAL STAFF MEMBER.—
 2 The term ‘qualified medical staff member’ means a
 3 medical professional certified in advanced cardio-
 4 vascular life support and advanced trauma life sup-
 5 port training.”.

6 **SEC. 202. CRIME REPORTING AND PUBLIC NOTICE.**

7 (a) AVAILABILITY OF LOG BOOK AND ENTRIES TO
 8 FBI AND OTHER INVESTIGATORS.—Section 3523(g)(1),
 9 as redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of this Act, is
 10 amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “in a cen-
 12 tralized location readily accessible to law enforce-
 13 ment personnel,”; and

14 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “make
 15 such log book available” and inserting “make avail-
 16 able the log book described in subparagraph (A), the
 17 Captain’s log, the security log, the engine room log,
 18 all other logs, and all entries of the log books or logs
 19 described in this subparagraph, without regard as to
 20 whether the log book, logs, or entries are maintained
 21 on board the vessel or at a centralized location off
 22 the vessel,”.

23 (b) DEADLINE TO NOTIFY FEDERAL BUREAU OF IN-
 24 VESTIGATION REGARDING CERTAIN INCIDENTS.—Section

1 3523(g)(3), as redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of
 2 this Act, is amended—

3 (1) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

4 (A) by striking “shall contact” and insert-
 5 ing “subject to subparagraph (C), shall con-
 6 tact”; and

7 (B) by striking “after the occurrence on
 8 board the vessel of an incident involving” and
 9 inserting “, but not later than 4 hours, after an
 10 employee of the vessel is notified of an incident
 11 on board the vessel allegedly involving”; and

12 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “admi-
 13 ralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States
 14 and outside the jurisdiction of any State” and in-
 15 serting “special maritime and territorial jurisdiction
 16 of the United States, as defined in section 7 of title
 17 18,”.

18 (c) CRIME REPORTING GUIDELINES.—Section
 19 3523(g)(1)(A), as redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of
 20 this Act and amended by subsection (a), is further amend-
 21 ed—

22 (1) in clause (i), by striking the comma at the
 23 end and inserting a semicolon;

24 (2) in clause (ii), by striking “, and” and in-
 25 serting a semicolon;

1 (3) in clause (iii), by striking the comma at the
2 end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (4) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

4 “(iv) any other criminal offenses re-
5 ported to the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
6 tion through the Uniform Crime Reporting
7 Program.”.

8 (d) REPORTS BEFORE DEPARTURE.—Section
9 3523(g)(3), as redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of
10 this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(C) REPORTS BEFORE DEPARTURE.—If
12 an employee of a vessel to which this sub-
13 chapter applies is notified of an incident under
14 subparagraph (A)(i) while the vessel is within
15 the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction
16 of the United States, as defined in section 7 of
17 title 18, and en route to a United States port
18 or at a United States port, the owner of the
19 vessel (or the owner’s designee) shall contact
20 the nearest Federal Bureau of Investigation
21 Field Office or Legal Attaché not later than the
22 time specified under subparagraph (A)(i) or be-
23 fore the vessel departs port, whichever is ear-
24 lier.”.

1 (e) REPORTS TO UNITED STATES CONSULATES.—
 2 Section 3523(g)(3), as amended by subsection (d), is fur-
 3 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(D) REPORTS TO UNITED STATES CON-
 5 SULATES.—If an incident described in subpara-
 6 graph (A)(i) allegedly involves an offense by or
 7 against a United States national, in addition to
 8 contacting the nearest Federal Bureau of Inves-
 9 tigation Field Office or Legal Attaché under
 10 that subparagraph, the owner of a vessel to
 11 which this subchapter applies (or the owner’s
 12 designee) shall contact the United States con-
 13 sulate at the next port of call as soon as pos-
 14 sible, but not later than 4 hours after arrival at
 15 the port.”.

16 (f) REPORTS TO SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION;
 17 INCIDENTS AND DETAILS.—Section 3523(g)(3)(A), as
 18 amended by subsection (b), is further amended—

19 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “to the Internet
 20 website maintained by the Secretary of Transpor-
 21 tation under paragraph (4)(A)” and inserting “, in-
 22 cluding the details under paragraph (2), to the
 23 Internet website maintained by the Secretary of
 24 Transportation under section 16106(i)”; and

1 (2) in clause (iii), by striking “under paragraph
2 (4)(A)” and inserting “under section 16106(i)”.

3 (g) AVAILABILITY OF SECURITY GUIDE VIA INTER-
4 NET.—Section 3523(c)(1), as redesignated under section
5 201(a)(3) of this Act, is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

7 (A) by striking “a guide (referred to in
8 this subsection as the ‘security guide’)” and in-
9 serting “a security guide”; and

10 (B) by striking “English, which” and in-
11 serting “English, that”; and

12 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “on the
13 website of the vessel owner” and inserting “through
14 a prominently accessible link on each Internet
15 website that the vessel owner maintains for applica-
16 ble passengers to purchase or book passage on a
17 passenger vessel”.

18 (h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3523, as
19 redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of this Act, is fur-
20 ther amended—

21 (1) by striking subsections (k) and (l);

22 (2) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as
23 subsections (j) and (k), respectively; and

24 (3) by inserting after subsection (h) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(i) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

2 “(1) PROVISION TO STATE FUSION CENTERS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any records (includ-
4 ing electronic records), information, or written
5 documentation provided to any source under
6 subsection (g) shall also be provided to the
7 State fusion center (as described in section
8 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
9 U.S.C. 124h)) for the State in which the appli-
10 cable port described in subparagraph (B) is lo-
11 cated.

12 “(B) APPLICABLE PORT.—For purposes of
13 this paragraph, the applicable port shall be the
14 port from which a vessel originally embarks or
15 the port at which the vessel disembarks, which-
16 ever port is nearest when the alleged incident
17 occurs.

18 “(2) EFFECT ON OTHER REPORTING REQUIRE-
19 MENTS.— Requirements under this subsection sup-
20 plement and do not amend, or serve as a substitute
21 for, the reporting requirements of section 10104 of
22 this title or any other provision of law.”.

1 **SEC. 203. CRIME PREVENTION, DOCUMENTATION, AND RE-**
 2 **SPONSE REQUIREMENTS.**

3 (a) MAINTENANCE AND PLACEMENT OF VIDEO SUR-
 4 VEILLANCE EQUIPMENT.—Section 3523(b)(1)(B), as re-
 5 designated under section 201(a)(3) of this Act, is amend-
 6 ed—

7 (1) in subclause (II) of clause (ii), by striking
 8 “to the maximum extent practicable”;

9 (2) by redesignating subclause (IV) of clause
 10 (ii) as clause (iii), and adjusting the margins appro-
 11 priately;

12 (3) by inserting after subclause (III) of clause
 13 (ii) the following:

14 “(IV) incorporate the feedback
 15 and suggestions from the results of
 16 the independent third party risk as-
 17 sessment to provide optimum surveil-
 18 lance that complies with the guidance
 19 from the Commandant.”; and

20 (4) in clause (iii), as redesignated by paragraph
 21 (2), by striking “the independent party referred to
 22 in paragraph (C)” and inserting the following:
 23 “INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY.—The independent
 24 party referred to in clause (ii)(III)”.

1 (b) ACCESS TO VIDEO RECORDS.—Section
 2 3523(b)(3)(B), as redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of
 3 this Act, is further amended—

4 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by strik-
 5 ing “Except as proscribed by law enforcement au-
 6 thorities or court order, the” and inserting “The”;
 7 and

8 (2) in clause (ii), by striking “of any sexual as-
 9 sault incident”.

10 (c) NOTICE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE.—Section
 11 3523(b)(2), as redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of
 12 this Act, is further amended by striking “this section ap-
 13 plies” and inserting “this subchapter applies”.

14 (d) RETENTION REQUIREMENTS.—Section
 15 3523(b)(4), as redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of
 16 this Act, is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and
 18 (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjust-
 19 ing the margins appropriately;

20 (2) by striking “The owner of a vessel to which
 21 this section applies” and inserting the following:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The owner of a vessel
 23 to which this subchapter applies”;

1 (3) by striking “20 days after the footage is ob-
2 tained” and inserting “1 year after completion of
3 the voyage”;

4 (4) in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A), as redes-
5 ignated by this subsection, by striking “4 years” and
6 inserting “5 years”; and

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

8 “(B) INTERIM STANDARDS.—Not later
9 than 180 days after the date of enactment of
10 the Cruise Passenger Protection Act of 2024,
11 the Commandant, in consultation with the Fed-
12 eral Bureau of Investigation, shall promulgate
13 interim standards for the retention of records of
14 video surveillance.

15 “(C) FINAL STANDARDS.—Not later than
16 1 year after the date of enactment of the Cruise
17 Passenger Protection Act of 2024, the Com-
18 mandant, in consultation with the Federal Bu-
19 reau of Investigation, shall promulgate final
20 standards for the retention of records of video
21 surveillance.

22 “(D) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating
23 standards under subparagraphs (B) and (C),
24 the Commandant shall—

1 “(i) consider factors that would aid in
 2 the investigation of serious crimes, includ-
 3 ing crimes that go unreported until after
 4 the completion of a voyage;

5 “(ii) consider the different types of
 6 video surveillance systems and storage re-
 7 quirements in creating standards both for
 8 vessels currently in operation and for ves-
 9 sels newly built;

10 “(iii) consider privacy, including
 11 standards for permissible access to and
 12 monitoring and use of the records of video
 13 surveillance; and

14 “(iv) consider technological advance-
 15 ments, including requirements to update
 16 technology.”.

17 (e) TECHNOLOGY DETECTING PASSENGERS WHO
 18 HAVE FALLEN OVERBOARD REQUIREMENT.—Section
 19 3523(a)(1)(D), as redesignated under section 201(a)(3) of
 20 this Act, is amended by striking “or detecting passengers
 21 who have fallen overboard,” and inserting “and detecting
 22 passengers who have fallen overboard, as certified by an
 23 independent third party accepted by a classification soci-
 24 ety that is a member of the International Association of
 25 Classification Societies or another classification society

1 recognized by the Secretary pursuant to section 3316(b)
 2 of this title.”.

3 (f) CRIMINAL ACTIVITY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
 4 GUIDE.—Section 3523(c)(1), as amended by section
 5 202(g) of this Act, is further amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

7 (A) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause
 8 (vi);

9 (B) by inserting after clause (i) the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 “(ii) describes the availability of sup-
 12 port services under section 16106, includ-
 13 ing any contact information provided by
 14 the Secretary of Transportation or director
 15 of victim support services under that sec-
 16 tion;

17 “(iii) includes the summary of rights
 18 under section 16106(e);

19 “(iv) includes the summary under sec-
 20 tion 16104(a);

21 “(v) includes the toll-free hotline tele-
 22 phone number and consumer complaints
 23 Internet website link under section
 24 16104(b);”;

1 (C) in clause (vi), as redesignated, by in-
2 serting “and” at the end; and

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

4 “(vii) includes such other information
5 as the Secretary of Transportation rec-
6 ommends under section 16106(b)(3)(F);”;

7 (2) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as
8 follows:

9 “(B) provide a copy of the security guide
10 to—

11 “(i) the Secretary of Transportation
12 for review; and

13 “(ii) the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
14 tion for comment;”;

15 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
16 paragraph (D); and

17 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(C) immediately after the vessel is noti-
20 fied that a passenger is an alleged victim of an
21 incident described under subsection (g)(3)(A)—

22 “(i) provide the passenger with a copy
23 of the security guide; and

24 “(ii) inform the passenger that the
25 passenger has the right to notify the Fed-

1 eral Bureau of Investigation that the pas-
2 senger has been a victim of a crime on a
3 passenger vessel; and”.

4 (g) MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLIES TO PREVENT SEXU-
5 ALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.—Section 3523(d)(1), as
6 redesignated by section 201(a)(3) of this Act, is amended
7 by inserting “(taking into consideration the length of the
8 voyage and the number of passengers and crewmembers
9 that the vessel can accommodate)” after “a sexual as-
10 sult”.

11 (h) SEXUAL ASSAULT; CONTACT INFORMATION.—
12 Section 3523(d)(5)(A), as redesignated by section
13 201(a)(3) of this Act, is amended by striking “the United
14 States Coast Guard,”.

15 (i) SEXUAL ASSAULT; PRIVATE TELEPHONE LINE.—
16 Section 3523(d)(5)(B), as redesignated by section
17 201(a)(3) of this Act, is amended by inserting “under sec-
18 tion 16106 or” after “the information and support serv-
19 ices available”.

20 (j) CRIME SCENE PRESERVATION TRAINING.—Not
21 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
22 Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast
23 Guard is operating shall—

24 (1) promulgate a rule establishing the stand-
25 ards and curricula to allow for the certification of

1 passenger vessel security personnel, crewmembers,
 2 and law enforcement officials on the appropriate
 3 methods for prevention, detection, evidence preserva-
 4 tion, and reporting of criminal activities in the inter-
 5 national maritime environment, as required under
 6 subsection (a) of section 3524 of title 46, United
 7 States Code (as redesignated by section 201(a)(3) of
 8 this Act); and

9 (2) publish the rule and the most recent cur-
 10 rricula described in paragraph (1) on the website of
 11 the department.

12 (k) CREW ACCESS TO PASSENGER STATEROOMS;
 13 PROCEDURES AND RESTRICTIONS.—Section 3523(f)(2),
 14 as redesignated by section 201(a)(3) of this Act, is amend-
 15 ed—

16 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

19 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
 20 the following:

21 “(C) a system that electronically records
 22 the date, time, and identity of each crew mem-
 23 ber accessing each passenger stateroom; and”;
 24 and

1 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(2) ensure that the procedures and restrictions
4 are—

5 “(A) fully and properly implemented;

6 “(B) reviewed annually; and

7 “(C) updated as necessary.”.

8 (l) REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING.—Subsection (i)
9 of section 3523, as added by section 202(h) of this Act,
10 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(3) APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS.—Any
12 reporting requirement under this section relating to
13 an incident specified in subsection (g)(3)(A)(i) is re-
14 quired without regard as to whether the Federal Bu-
15 reau of Investigation has opened a formal investiga-
16 tion relating to the incident.”.

17 **SEC. 204. PASSENGER VESSEL SECURITY AND SAFETY RE-**
18 **QUIREMENTS.**

19 (a) VESSEL DESIGN, EQUIPMENT, CONSTRUCTION,
20 AND RETROFITTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3523(a),
21 as redesignated by section 201(a)(3) of this Act, is amend-
22 ed—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

25 (A), by striking “to which this subsection ap-

plies” and inserting “to which this subchapter applies”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “The vessel” and inserting “Each exterior deck of a vessel”; and

(ii) by inserting “unless the height requirement would interfere with the deployment of a lifesaving device or other emergency equipment as identified by the Commandant” before the period at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “entry doors that include peep holes or other means of visual identification.” and inserting “an entry door that includes a peep hole or other means of visual identification that provides an unobstructed view of the area outside the stateroom or crew cabin. For purposes of this subparagraph, the addition of an optional privacy cover on the interior side of the entry shall not in and of itself constitute an obstruction.”; and

(D) in subparagraph (E), by striking “when operating in high risk areas (as defined by the United States Coast Guard)”; and

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

2 “(3) WAIVERS; RECORD OF WAIVERS.—The
3 Secretary—

4 “(A) may waive a requirement under para-
5 graph (1) as the Secretary determines nec-
6 essary;

7 “(B) shall maintain a record of each waiv-
8 er under subparagraph (A); and

9 “(C) shall include in such record the jus-
10 tification for the waiver.”.

11 (b) MEDICAL STANDARDS.—

12 (1) MEDICAL STANDARDS.—Section 3525, as
13 redesignated by section 201(a)(3) of this Act, is
14 amended—

15 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
16 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

17 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
18 following:

19 “(2) there are a sufficient number of qualified
20 medical staff members on the vessel to treat the
21 number of passengers who may be on board the ves-
22 sel, as determined by regulation by the Secretary, in
23 consultation with the Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services;”;

1 (C) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by
 2 subparagraph (A), by striking “; and” and in-
 3 serting “or any successor standard;”;

4 (D) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by
 5 subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 7 “and” after the semicolon;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 9 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

10 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 11 lowing:

12 “(C) the location and proper use of auto-
 13 mated external defibrillators; and

14 “(D) the proper way to report an incident
 15 or to seek security assistance in the event of a
 16 medical emergency;”; and

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

18 “(5) if a United States citizen dies on board the
 19 vessel and the citizen’s next of kin requests that the
 20 citizen’s body return to the United States on the
 21 vessel—

22 “(A) such request is granted—

23 “(i) unless—

24 “(I) the vessel comes within the
 25 domestic jurisdiction of a country that

1 requires human remains to be re-
2 moved from a vessel or requires
3 human remains to undergo post-
4 mortem offshore autopsy; or

5 “(II) the vessel is scheduled to
6 enter the domestic jurisdiction of such
7 a country as part of the scheduled
8 voyage; and

9 “(ii) except that, in cases in which the
10 vessel is not scheduled to return to a
11 United States port for 21 or more days
12 after the citizen’s death, arrangements
13 may be made to return the body on a dif-
14 ferent appropriate vessel; and

15 “(B) the owner of the vessel pays for any
16 transportation costs related to the return;

17 “(6) every crew member on the vessel has re-
18 ceived basic life support training and is certified in
19 cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

20 “(7) every passenger-facing crew member on a
21 vessel leaving from or en route to a United States
22 port of call has a basic understanding of the English
23 language, including—

1 “(A) at least a ‘Basic’ score on the Test of
2 English as a Foreign Language for both listen-
3 ing and speaking;

4 “(B) at least a ‘4 Skill Level’ score on the
5 International English Language Testing System
6 for both listening and speaking; or

7 “(C) at least a basic level of proficiency for
8 listening and speaking on another test of the
9 English Language designated by the Sec-
10 retary.”.

11 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
12 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that
13 is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 205. ENFORCEMENT.**

15 (a) PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF PASSENGER VES-
16 SEL SECURITY AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.—Section
17 3523(h)(1)(A), as redesignated by section 201(a)(3) of
18 this Act, is amended by striking “, except that” and all
19 that follows through “\$50,000”.

20 (b) INFORMATION SHARING.—Subchapter II of chap-
21 ter 35, as amended by this Act, is further amended by
22 adding at the end the following:

23 **“§ 3527. Information sharing**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent not prohibited by
25 other law, the head of a designated agency shall make

1 available to another head of a designated agency any infor-
 2 mation necessary to carry out the provisions of this sub-
 3 chapter. The provision by the head of a designated agency
 4 of any information under this section to another head of
 5 a designated agency shall not constitute a waiver of, or
 6 otherwise effect, any privilege any agency or person may
 7 claim with respect to that information under Federal or
 8 State law.

9 “(b) DEFINITION OF HEAD OF A DESIGNATED
 10 AGENCY.—In this section, the term ‘head of a designated
 11 agency’ means the Secretary of Transportation, the Sec-
 12 retary of Homeland Security, or the Attorney General.”.

13 (c) ENFORCEMENT.—Subchapter II of chapter 35, as
 14 amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the
 15 end the following:

16 **“§ 3528. Refusal of clearance; denial of entry**

17 “(a) CLEARANCE.—The Secretary of Homeland Se-
 18 curity may withhold or revoke the clearance required
 19 under section 60105 of any vessel of the owner of a vessel
 20 to which this subchapter applies, wherever the vessel is
 21 found, if the owner of the vessel—

22 “(1) commits an act or omission for which a
 23 penalty may be imposed under this subchapter or
 24 chapter 161; or

1 “(2) fails to pay a penalty imposed on the
2 owner under this subchapter or chapter 161.

3 “(b) DENIAL OF ENTRY.—The Secretary of the de-
4 partment in which the Coast Guard is operating may deny
5 entry into the United States to a vessel to which this sub-
6 chapter applies if it is made aware by the Secretary of
7 the Department of Transportation or the Attorney Gen-
8 eral that the owner of the vessel—

9 “(1) commits an act or omission for which a
10 penalty may be imposed under this subchapter or
11 chapter 161; or

12 “(2) fails to pay a penalty imposed on the
13 owner under this subchapter or chapter 161.”.

14 **SEC. 206. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

15 (a) APPLICATION.—Chapter 35, as amended by this
16 Act, is further amended—

17 (1) in section 3523, by striking “to which this
18 section applies” each place such phrase appears and
19 inserting “to which this subchapter applies”;

20 (2) in section 3524, by striking “to which this
21 section applies” each place such phrase appears and
22 inserting “to which this subchapter applies”;

23 (3) in section 3525, by striking “to which sec-
24 tion 3507 applies” and inserting “to which this sub-
25 chapter applies”; and

1 (4) in section 3526—

2 (A) by striking “to which section 3507 ap-
3 plies” and inserting “to which this subchapter
4 applies”;

5 (B) by striking “(a) AUTOMATED EXTER-
6 NAL DEFIBRILLATORS.—”; and

7 (C) by striking subsection (b).

8 (b) AVAILABILITY OF INCIDENT DATA VIA INTER-
9 NET.—Section 3523(g), as redesignated under section
10 201(a)(3) of this Act, is amended by striking paragraph
11 (4).

12 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section
13 8440(c)(2) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National
14 Defense Authorization Act of 2021 is amended by striking
15 “3507 of title 46, United States Code” and inserting
16 “3523 of title 46, United States Code (designated as sec-
17 tion 3507 of such title before the date of enactment of
18 the Cruise Passenger Protection Act of 2024),”.

19 (d) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections for
20 chapter 35 is amended—

21 (1) by inserting before the item relating to sec-
22 tion 3501 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS”;

23 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
24 tion 3506 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER II—CRUISE VESSELS”;

1 and
 2 (3) by striking the items relating to sections
 3 3507, 3508, 3509, and 3510 and inserting the fol-
 4 lowing:

“3521. Application.
 “3522. Definitions.
 “3523. Passenger vessel security and safety requirements.
 “3524. Crime scene preservation training for passenger vessel crewmembers.
 “3525. Medical standards.
 “3526. Additional medical and safety standards.
 “3527. Information sharing.
 “3528. Refusal of clearance; denial of entry.”.

5 **SEC. 207. LIMITATIONS IN CERTAIN CASES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 30307 is amended—
 7 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**Com-**
 8 **mercial aviation accidents**” and inserting
 9 “**Limitations in certain cases**”;

10 (2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
 11 following:

12 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following
 13 definitions apply:

14 “(1) CRUISE SHIP.—The term ‘cruise ship’
 15 means a passenger vessel, other than a vessel of the
 16 United States operated by the Federal Government
 17 or a vessel owned and operated by a State, that—

18 “(A) is authorized to carry at least 250
 19 passengers;

20 “(B) has onboard sleeping facilities for
 21 each passenger; and

1 “(C) is on a voyage that embarks or dis-
2 embarks passengers in the United States.

3 “(2) NONPECUNIARY DAMAGES.—The term
4 ‘nonpecuniary damages’ means damages for pre-
5 death pain and suffering and for loss of care, com-
6 fort, and companionship.”;

7 (3) in subsection (b), by inserting “, or cruise
8 ship voyage,” after “commercial aviation accident”;
9 and

10 (4) in subsection (c), by inserting “, or cruise
11 ship voyage,” after “commercial aviation accident”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 for chapter 303 is amended by striking the item relating
14 to section 30307 and inserting the following:

“30307. Limitations in certain cases.”.

