

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 2  
OFFERED BY MR. CARSON OF INDIANA**

At the end of title I, add the following new section  
(and amend the table of contents accordingly):

1 **SEC. 1617. REQUIREMENTS FOR AMPHIBIOUS PASSENGER**  
2 **VESSELS TO REMAIN AFLOAT AND UPRIGHT**  
3 **IN THE EVENT OF FLOODING.**

4 (a) RESERVE BUOYANCY FOR AMPHIBIOUS PAS-  
5 Senger VESSELS THROUGH PASSIVE MEANS.—

6 (1) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than  
7 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
8 the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall prescribe  
9 in regulations requirements that operators of am-  
10 phibious passenger vessels provide reserve buoyancy  
11 for such vessels through passive means, including  
12 watertight compartmentalization, built-in flotation,  
13 or such other means as the Commandant shall speci-  
14 fy in the regulations, in order to ensure that such  
15 vessels remain afloat and upright in the event of  
16 flooding, including when carrying a full complement  
17 of passengers and crew.

1           (2) DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE.—The regula-  
2           tions required by paragraph (1) shall require compli-  
3           ance with the requirements in the regulations by op-  
4           erators of amphibious passenger vessels by such  
5           date, not later than 24 months after the date of the  
6           enactment of this Act, as the Commandant shall  
7           specify in the regulations.

8           (b) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS.—Commencing as of  
9           the date the regulations required by subsection (a) are  
10          prescribed, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall re-  
11          quire that operators of amphibious passenger vessels that  
12          are not in compliance with the requirements in the regula-  
13          tions do the following:

14               (1) Remove the canopies of such vessels for wa-  
15               terborne operations, or install in such vehicles a can-  
16               opy that does not restrict either horizontal or  
17               vertical escape by passengers in the event of flooding  
18               or sinking.

19               (2) If the canopy is removed from any such ves-  
20               sel pursuant to paragraph (1), require that all pas-  
21               sengers don a Coast Guard type-approved personal  
22               flotation device before the onset of waterborne oper-  
23               ations of such vessel.

24               (3) Reengineer such vessels to permanently  
25               close all unnecessary access plugs and to reduce all

1 through-hull penetrations to the minimum number  
2 and size necessary for operation.

3 (4) Install in such vessels independently pow-  
4 ered electric bilge pumps that are capable of  
5 dewatering such vessels at the volume of the largest  
6 remaining penetration in order to supplement either  
7 an operable Higgins pump or a dewatering pump of  
8 equivalent or greater capacity.

9 (5) Install in such vessels not fewer than four  
10 independently powered bilge alarms.

11 (6) Inspect any such vessel in water after each  
12 time a through-hull penetration of such vessel has  
13 been removed or uncovered.

14 (7) Verify the watertight integrity of any such  
15 vessel in the water at the outset of each waterborne  
16 departure of such vessel.

17 (8) Otherwise comply with any other provisions  
18 of Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 1-01  
19 in the inspection, configuration, and operation of  
20 such vessels.

21 (c) PROHIBITION ON OPERATION OF NONCOMPLIANT  
22 VESSELS.—The following amphibious passenger vessels  
23 may not operate on United States waterways:

24 (1) Commencing as of the date the regulations  
25 required by subsection (a) are prescribed, any am-

1        amphibious passenger vessel whose configuration or op-  
2        eration does not comply with the requirements in  
3        subsection (b).

4            (2) Commencing as of the date specified by the  
5        Commandant of the Coast Guard pursuant to sub-  
6        section (a)(2), any amphibious passenger vessel  
7        whose configuration or operation does not comply  
8        with the requirements in the regulations under sub-  
9        section (a)(1).

