

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4725  
OFFERED BY MR. MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS**

At the end of section 273 add the following:

1       (d) STUDY ON RELIANCE ON AIDS TO NAVIGA-  
2 TION.—

3           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall con-  
4 duct a study on the extent to which physical aids to  
5 navigation, including buoys and dayboards, are re-  
6 lied upon by maritime users in the Missouri River,  
7 First Coast Guard District, and Thirteenth Coast  
8 Guard District.

9           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In the study conducted  
10 under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall include  
11 the following:

12           (A) An analysis of the extent to which  
13 physical aids to navigation serve as primary  
14 navigational references for operators of vessels  
15 that lack electronic or satellite-based systems,  
16 including small commercial vessels, recreational  
17 boats, sailboats, and skiffs.

18           (B) An assessment of the role physical aids  
19 to navigation play in supporting safe vessel op-

1           eration during outages, disruptions, or inac-  
2           curacies in electronic or satellite-based naviga-  
3           tion systems.

4           (C) An assessment of mariner perspectives  
5           on the availability, visibility, and reliability of  
6           physical aids to navigation, based on input from  
7           recreational boaters, commercial fishermen,  
8           pilot associations, port authorities, and other  
9           relevant waterway users.

10          (D) A summary of reported incidents or  
11          near-miss events from the past five years in  
12          which the presence or absence of physical aids  
13          to navigation played a contributory role in navi-  
14          gational outcomes, including collisions,  
15          groundings, or deviations from intended routes.

16          (E) Recommendations for enhancing navi-  
17          gational safety for mariners who rely exclusively  
18          on, or supplement electronic systems with, tra-  
19          ditional visual aids to navigation.

20          (F) A cost–benefit analysis of the contin-  
21          ued maintenance of physical aids to navigation,  
22          and the projected consequences of their re-  
23          moval, including—

24               (i) an estimate of the potential in-  
25               crease in maritime accidents, search and

1 rescue operations, environmental incidents,  
2 and Coast Guard response missions that  
3 could result from the reduction or removal  
4 of physical aids to navigation;

5 (ii) a comparison of the anticipated  
6 costs associated with such increased Coast  
7 Guard response operations to the ongoing  
8 costs of maintaining and servicing buoys  
9 and dayboards, particularly in high-traffic  
10 areas or locations with limited access to  
11 electronic navigation systems;

12 (iii) an assessment of the role physical  
13 aids to navigation play in preventing inci-  
14 dents involving vessels with limited or no  
15 reliance on GPS or electronic systems; and

16 (iv) an assessment of the indirect  
17 costs and operational impacts associated  
18 with the removal of physical aids to navi-  
19 gation, including increased risk of vessel  
20 groundings, prolonged Coast Guard re-  
21 sponse times, and diminished mariner trust  
22 in navigational infrastructure.

23 (3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than  
24 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act,  
25 the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on

1       Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of  
2       Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
3       Science, and Transportation of the Senate the re-  
4       sults of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

