

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, S. 756, With an Amendment**

**(The amendment consists of a complete new text)**

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 756

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2017

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## AN ACT

To reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, 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 **TITLE I—MARINE DEBRIS**

4 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Save Our Seas Act  
6 of 2018”.

7 **SEC. 102. NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.**

8 Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952)  
9 is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and”  
3 and inserting a semicolon;

4 (B) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking the  
5 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
6 and

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

8 “(6) work to develop outreach and education  
9 strategies with other Federal agencies to address  
10 sources of marine debris;

11 “(7) except for discharges of marine debris  
12 from vessels, in consultation with the Department of  
13 State and other Federal agencies, promote inter-  
14 national action, as appropriate, to reduce the inci-  
15 dence of marine debris, including providing technical  
16 assistance to expand waste management systems  
17 internationally; and

18 “(8) in the case of an event determined to be  
19 a severe marine debris event under subsection (c)—

20 “(A) assist in the cleanup and response re-  
21 quired by the severe marine debris event; or

22 “(B) conduct such other activity as the  
23 Administrator determines is appropriate in re-  
24 sponse to the severe marine debris event.”;

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

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

5           “(c) DETERMINATION OF SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS  
6           EVENTS.—At the discretion of the Administrator or at the  
7           request of the Governor of an affected State, the Adminis-  
8           trator shall determine whether there is a severe marine  
9           debris event.”; and

10          (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

11                 (A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “sub-  
12                 paragraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs  
13                 (B) and (C)”;

14                 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “may  
15                 waive all or part of the matching requirement  
16                 under subparagraph (A)” and inserting “may  
17                 reduce the non-Federal share of project costs  
18                 under subparagraph (A) by up to 50 percent”;  
19                 and

20                 (C) by adding at the end of paragraph (2)  
21                 the following:

22                 “(C) SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—  
23                 Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Federal  
24                 share of the cost of an activity carried out

1 under a determination made under subsection  
2 (c) shall be—

3 “(i) 100 percent of the cost of the ac-  
4 tivity, for an activity funded wholly by  
5 funds made available by a person, includ-  
6 ing the government of a foreign country, to  
7 the Federal Government for the purpose of  
8 responding to a severe marine debris event;  
9 or

10 “(ii) 75 percent of the cost of the ac-  
11 tivity, for any activity other than an activ-  
12 ity funded as described in clause (i).”.

13 **SEC. 103. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL EN-**  
14 **GAGEMENT TO RESPOND TO MARINE DEBRIS.**

15 It is the sense of Congress that the President  
16 should—

17 (1) support research and development on sys-  
18 tems and materials that reduce—

19 (A) derelict fishing gear; and

20 (B) the amount of solid waste that is gen-  
21 erated from land-based sources and the amount  
22 of such waste that enters the marine environ-  
23 ment;

24 (2) work with representatives of foreign coun-  
25 tries that discharge the largest amounts of solid

1 waste from land-based sources into the marine envi-  
2 ronment, to develop mechanisms to reduce such dis-  
3 charges;

4 (3) carry out studies to determine—

5 (A) the primary means of discharges re-  
6 ferred to in paragraph (2);

7 (B) the manner in which waste manage-  
8 ment infrastructure can be most effective in  
9 preventing such discharges; and

10 (C) the long-term impacts of marine debris  
11 on the national economies of the countries with  
12 which work is undertaken under paragraph (2)  
13 and on the global economy, including the im-  
14 pacts of reducing the discharge of such debris;

15 (4) work with representatives of the countries  
16 with which work is undertaken in paragraph (2) to  
17 conclude one or more new international agreements  
18 that include provisions—

19 (A) to mitigate the discharge of land-based  
20 solid waste into the marine environment; and

21 (B) to provide technical assistance and in-  
22 vestment in waste management infrastructure  
23 to reduce such discharges, if the President de-  
24 termines such assistance or investment is ap-  
25 propriate; and

1           (5) encourage the United States Trade Rep-  
2           representative to consider the impact of discharges of  
3           land-based solid waste from the countries with which  
4           work is conducted under paragraph (2) in relevant  
5           future trade agreements.

6   **SEC. 104. MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERAGENCY MARINE DE-**  
7                           **BRIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

8           Section 5(b) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C.  
9   1954(b)) is amended—

10           (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and  
11           inserting a semicolon;

12           (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-  
13           graph (7); and

14           (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-  
15           lowing:

16           “ (5) the Department of State;

17           “ (6) the Department of the Interior; and”.

18   **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19           Section 9 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958)  
20   is amended to read as follows:

21   **“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22           “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
23   priated to the Administrator \$10,000,000 for each of fis-  
24   cal years 2018 through 2022 for carrying out sections 3,

1 5, and 6, of which not more than 5 percent is authorized  
2 for each fiscal year for administrative costs.

3 “(b) AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED FOR COAST GUARD.—  
4 Of the amounts authorized for each fiscal year under sec-  
5 tion 2702(1) of title 14, United States Code, up to  
6 \$2,000,000 is authorized for the Secretary of the depart-  
7 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating for use by  
8 the Commandant of the Coast Guard to carry out section  
9 4 of this Act, of which not more than 5 percent is author-  
10 ized for each fiscal year for administrative costs.”.

## 11 **TITLE II—MARITIME SAFETY**

### 12 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

13 This title may be cited as the “Maritime Safety Act  
14 of 2018”.

### 15 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this title:

17 (1) **COMMANDANT.**—The term “Commandant”  
18 means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

19 (2) **RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION.**—The term  
20 “recognized organization” has the meaning given  
21 that term in section 2.45–1 of title 46, Code of Fed-  
22 eral Regulations, as in effect on the date of the en-  
23 actment of this Act.

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

4 **SEC. 203. DOMESTIC VESSEL COMPLIANCE.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
6           date on which the President submits to the Congress a  
7           budget each year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31,  
8           United States Code, the Commandant shall publish on a  
9           publicly accessible Website information documenting do-  
10          mestic vessel compliance with the requirements of subtitle  
11          II of title 46, United States Code.

12          (b) CONTENT.—The information required under sub-  
13          section (a) shall—

14                (1) include flag-State detention rates for each  
15                type of inspected vessel; and

16                (2) identify any recognized organization that in-  
17                spected or surveyed a vessel that was later subject  
18                to a Coast Guard-issued control action attributable  
19                to a major nonconformity that the recognized orga-  
20                nization failed to identify in such inspection or sur-  
21                vey.

22 **SEC. 204. SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the  
24          United States shall conduct an audit regarding the imple-



1 mentation and effectiveness of safety management plans  
2 required under chapter 32 of title 46, United States Code.

3 (b) SCOPE.—The audit conducted under subsection  
4 (a) shall include a representative sample of safety manage-  
5 ment plans, including such plans for—

6 (1) a range of vessel types and sizes; and

7 (2) vessels that operate in a cross-section of re-  
8 gional operating areas.

9 (c) REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-  
12 troller General shall submit to Committee on Trans-  
13 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
15 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report  
16 detailing the results of the audit and providing rec-  
17 ommendations related to such results, including  
18 ways to streamline and focus such plans on ship  
19 safety.

20 (2) MARINE SAFETY ALERT.—Not later than  
21 60 days after the date the report is submitted under  
22 paragraph (1), the Commandant shall publish a Ma-  
23 rine Safety Alert providing notification of the com-  
24 pletion of the report and including a link to the re-  
25 port on a publicly accessible website.

1 **SEC. 205. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) REGULATIONS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3306 of title 46,  
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
5 end the following:

6 “(1)(1) The Secretary shall require that a freight ves-  
7 sel inspected under this chapter be outfitted with distress  
8 signaling and location technology for the higher of—

9 “(A) the minimum complement of officers and  
10 crew specified on the certificate of inspection for  
11 such vessel; or

12 “(B) the number of persons onboard the vessel;  
13 and

14 “(2) the requirement described in paragraph (1) shall  
15 not apply to vessels operating within the baseline from  
16 which the territorial sea of the United States is measured.

17 “(m)(1) The Secretary shall promulgate regulations  
18 requiring companies to maintain records of all incremental  
19 weight changes made to freight vessels inspected under  
20 this chapter, and to track weight changes over time to fa-  
21 cilitate rapid determination of the aggregate total.

22 “(2) Records maintained under paragraph (1) shall  
23 be stored, in paper or electronic form, onboard such ves-  
24 sels for not less than 3 years and shoreside for the life  
25 of the vessel.”.

26 (2) DEADLINES.—The Secretary shall—

1 (A) begin implementing the requirement  
2 under section 3306(l) of title 46, United States  
3 Code, as amended by this subsection, by not  
4 later than 1 year after the date of the enact-  
5 ment of this Act; and

6 (B) promulgate the regulations required  
7 under section 3306(m) of title 46, United  
8 States Code, as amended by this subsection, by  
9 not later than 1 year after the date of the en-  
10 actment of this Act.

11 (b) **ENGAGEMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the  
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall  
13 seek to enter into negotiations through the International  
14 Maritime Organization to amend regulation 25 of chapter  
15 II–1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life  
16 at Sea to require a high-water alarm sensor in each cargo  
17 hold of a freight vessel (as that term is defined in section  
18 2101(13) of title 46, United States Code), that connects  
19 with audible and visual alarms on the navigation bridge  
20 of the vessel.

21 **SEC. 206. VOYAGE DATA RECORDER; ACCESS.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 63 of title 46, United  
23 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
24 lowing:

1 **“§ 6309. Voyage data recorder access**

2 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
3 Coast Guard shall have full and timely access to and abil-  
4 ity to use voyage data recorder data and audio held by  
5 any Federal agency in all marine casualty investigations,  
6 regardless of which agency is the investigative lead.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such  
8 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:  
“6309. Voyage data recorder access.”.

9 **SEC. 207. VOYAGE DATA RECORDER; REQUIREMENTS.**

10 (a) FLOAT-FREE AND BEACON REQUIREMENTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
13 mandant shall seek to enter into negotiations  
14 through the International Maritime Organization to  
15 amend regulation 20 of chapter V of the Inter-  
16 national Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea to  
17 require that all voyage data recorders are installed  
18 in a float-free arrangement and contain an inte-  
19 grated emergency position indicating radio beacon.

20 (2) PROGRESS UPDATE.—Not later than 3  
21 years after the date of the 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 an update

1 on the progress of the engagement required under  
2 paragraph (1).

3 (b) **COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.**—Not later than 2  
4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
5 mandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation  
6 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and  
7 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
8 of the Senate a cost-benefit analysis of requiring that voy-  
9 age data recorders installed on commercial vessels docu-  
10 mented under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code,  
11 capture communications on the internal telephone systems  
12 of such vessels, including requiring the capture of both  
13 sides of all communications with the bridge onboard such  
14 vessels.

15 **SEC. 208. SURVIVAL AND LOCATING EQUIPMENT.**

16 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-  
17 ment of this Act, the Commandant shall, subject to the  
18 availability of appropriations, identify and procure equip-  
19 ment that will provide search-and-rescue units the ability  
20 to attach a radio or Automated Identification System  
21 strobe or beacon to an object that is not immediately re-  
22 trievable.

23 **SEC. 209. TRAINING OF COAST GUARD PERSONNEL.**

24 (a) **PROSPECTIVE SECTOR COMMANDER TRAIN-**  
25 **ING.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-

1 ment of this Act, the Commandant shall implement an Of-  
2 ficer in Charge, Marine Inspections segment to the sector  
3 commander indoctrination course for prospective sector  
4 commanders without a Coast Guard prevention ashore of-  
5 ficer specialty code.

6 (b) STEAMSHIP INSPECTIONS.—Not later than 1 year  
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
8 mandant shall implement steam plant inspection training  
9 for Coast Guard marine inspectors and, subject to avail-  
10 ability, recognized organizations to which authority is dele-  
11 gated under section 3316 of title 46, United States Code.

12 (c) ADVANCED JOURNEYMAN INSPECTOR TRAIN-  
13 ING.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
16 mandant shall establish advanced training to provide  
17 instruction on the oversight of recognized organiza-  
18 tions to which authority is delegated under section  
19 3316 of title 46, United States Code, auditing re-  
20 sponsibilities, and the inspection of unique vessel  
21 types.

22 (2) RECIPIENTS.—The Commandant shall—

23 (A) require that such training be com-  
24 pleted by senior Coast Guard marine inspectors;  
25 and

1 (B) subject to availability of training ca-  
2 pacity, make such training available to recog-  
3 nized organization surveyors authorized by the  
4 Coast Guard to conduct inspections.

5 (d) COAST GUARD INSPECTIONS STAFF; BRIEF-  
6 ING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-  
7 ment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide to the  
8 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the  
9 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-  
10 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a brief-  
11 ing detailing—

12 (1) the estimated time and funding necessary to  
13 triple the current size of the Coast Guard’s traveling  
14 inspector staff; and

15 (2) other options available to the Coast Guard  
16 to enhance and maintain marine safety knowledge,  
17 including discussion of increased reliance on—

18 (A) civilian marine inspectors;

19 (B) experienced licensed mariners;

20 (C) retired members of the Coast Guard;

21 (D) arranging for Coast Guard inspectors  
22 to ride onboard commercial oceangoing vessels  
23 documented under chapter 121 of title 46,  
24 United States Code, to gain experience and in-  
25 sight; and

1 (E) extending tour-lengths for Coast  
2 Guard marine safety officers assigned to inspec-  
3 tion billets.

4 (e) AUDITS; COAST GUARD ATTENDANCE AND PER-  
5 FORMANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of  
6 the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall—

7 (1) update Coast Guard policy to utilize risk  
8 analysis to target the attendance of Coast Guard  
9 personnel during external safety management certifi-  
10 cate and document of compliance audits; and

11 (2) perform a quality assurance audit of recog-  
12 nized organization representation and performance  
13 regarding United States-flagged vessels.

14 **SEC. 210. MAJOR MARINE CASUALTY PROPERTY DAMAGE**  
15 **THRESHOLD.**

16 Section 6101(i)(3) of title 46, United States Code,  
17 is amended by striking “\$500,000” and inserting  
18 “\$2,000,000”.

19 **SEC. 211. REVIEWS, BRIEFINGS, AND REPORTS.**

20 (a) MAJOR CONVERSION DETERMINATIONS.—

21 (1) REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—

22 The Commandant shall conduct a review of policies  
23 and procedures for making and documenting major  
24 conversion determinations, including an examination  
25 of the deference given to precedent.



1           (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the  
2           date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant  
3           shall provide to the Committee on Transportation  
4           and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives  
5           and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
6           Transportation of the Senate a briefing on the find-  
7           ings of the review required by paragraph (1).

8           (b) VENTILATORS, OPENINGS AND STABILITY  
9           STANDARDS.—

10           (1) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the  
11           date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant  
12           shall complete a review of the effectiveness of United  
13           States regulations, international conventions, recog-  
14           nized organizations' class rules, and Coast Guard  
15           technical policy regarding—

16                   (A) ventilators and other hull openings;

17                   (B) fire dampers and other closures pro-  
18           tecting openings normally open during oper-  
19           ations; and

20                   (C) intact and damage stability standards  
21           under subchapter S of chapter I of title 46,  
22           Code of Federal Regulations.

23           (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 18 months after  
24           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
25           mandant shall provide to the Committee on Trans-

1 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-  
2 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
3 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing  
4 on the effectiveness of the regulations, international  
5 conventions, recognized organizations' class rules,  
6 and Coast Guard technical policy reviewed under  
7 paragraph (1).

8 (c) SELF-LOCATING DATUM MARKER BUOYS.—Not  
9 later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of  
10 this Act, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee  
11 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of  
12 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
13 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing on  
14 the reliability of self-locating datum marker buoys and  
15 other similar technology used during Coast Guard search-  
16 and-rescue operations. The briefing shall include a de-  
17 scription of reasonable steps the Commandant could take  
18 to increase the reliability of such buoys, including the po-  
19 tential to leverage technology used by the Navy, and how  
20 protocols could be developed to conduct testing of such  
21 buoys before using them for operations.

22 (d) OVERSIGHT PROGRAM; EFFECTIVENESS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
25 mandant shall commission an assessment of the ef-

1       fectiveness of the Coast Guard’s oversight of recog-  
2       nized organizations and its impact on compliance by  
3       and safety of vessels inspected by such organiza-  
4       tions.

5           (2) EXPERIENCE.—The assessment commis-  
6       sioned under paragraph (1) shall be conducted by a  
7       research organization with significant experience in  
8       maritime operations and marine safety.

9           (3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than  
10      180 days after the date that the assessment required  
11      under paragraph (1) is completed, the Commandant  
12      shall submit to the Committee on Transportation  
13      and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives  
14      and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
15      Transportation of the Senate the results of such as-  
16      sessment.

17 **SEC. 212. FLAG-STATE GUIDANCE AND SUPPLEMENTS.**

18      (a) FREIGHT VESSELS; DAMAGE CONTROL INFORMA-  
19      TION.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of  
20      this Act, the Secretary shall issue flag-State guidance for  
21      all freight vessels documented under chapter 121 of title  
22      46, United States Code, built before January 1, 1992, re-  
23      garding the inclusion of comprehensive damage control in-  
24      formation in safety management plans required under  
25      chapter 32 of title 46, United States Code.

1 (b) RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS; UNITED STATES  
2 SUPPLEMENT.—The Commandant shall—

3 (1) work with recognized organizations to cre-  
4 ate a single United States Supplement to rules of  
5 such organizations for classification of vessels; and

6 (2) by not later than 1 year after the date of  
7 the enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee  
8 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House  
9 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
10 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing  
11 on whether it is necessary to revise part 8 of title  
12 46, Code of Federal Regulations, to authorize only  
13 one United States Supplement to such rules.

14 **SEC. 213. MARINE SAFETY STRATEGY.**

15 Section 2116 of title 46, United States Code, is  
16 amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “each year of  
18 an annual” and inserting “of a triennial”;

19 (2) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
21 “ANNUAL” and inserting “TRIENNIAL”; and

22 (B) by striking “annual” each place it ap-  
23 pears and inserting “triennial”;

24 (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking “fiscal year 2011 and each  
2 fiscal year” and inserting “fiscal year 2020 and  
3 triennially”; and

4 (B) by striking “annual plan” and insert-  
5 ing “triennial plan”; and

6 (4) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “annually”  
7 and inserting “triennially”.

8 **SEC. 214. RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS; OVERSIGHT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3316 of title 46, United  
10 States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (g)  
11 as subsection (h), and by inserting after subsection (f) the  
12 following:

13 “(g)(1) There shall be within the Coast Guard an of-  
14 fice that conducts comprehensive and targeted oversight  
15 of all recognized organizations that act on behalf of the  
16 Coast Guard.

17 “(2) The staff of the office shall include subject mat-  
18 ter experts, including inspectors, investigators, and audi-  
19 tors, who possess the capability and authority to audit all  
20 aspects of such recognized organizations.

21 “(3) In this subsection the term ‘recognized organiza-  
22 tion’ has the meaning given that term in section 2.45–  
23 1 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect  
24 on the date of the enactment of the Maritime Safety Act  
25 of 2018.”.

1 (b) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—The Com-  
2 mandant of the Coast Guard shall establish the office re-  
3 quired by the amendment made by subsection (a) by not  
4 later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this  
5 Act.

6 **SEC. 215. TIMELY WEATHER FORECASTS.**

7 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
8 of this Act, the Commandant shall seek to enter into nego-  
9 tiations through the International Maritime Organization  
10 to amend the International Convention for the Safety of  
11 Life at Sea to require that vessels subject to the require-  
12 ments of such Convention receive timely synoptic and  
13 graphical chart weather forecasts.

14 **SEC. 216. MARINE SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION STATUS.**

15 Not later than December 19 of 2018, and of each  
16 of the 2 subsequent years thereafter, the Commandant  
17 shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and In-  
18 frastructure of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
19 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
20 Senate a briefing on the status of implementation of each  
21 action outlined in the Commandant's final action memo  
22 dated December 19, 2017, regarding the sinking and loss  
23 of the vessel El Faro.

1 **SEC. 217. DELEGATED AUTHORITIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall  
4 review the authorities that have been delegated to recog-  
5 nized organizations for the alternative compliance pro-  
6 gram as described in subpart D of part 8 of title 46, Code  
7 of Federal Regulations, and, if necessary, revise or estab-  
8 lish policies and procedures to ensure those delegated au-  
9 thorities are being conducted in a manner to ensure safe  
10 maritime transportation.

11 (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
12 of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall pro-  
13 vide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-  
14 portation of the Senate and the Committee on Transpor-  
15 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives  
16 a briefing on the implementation of subsection (a).

17 **TITLE III—CENTER OF**  
18 **EXPERTISE**

19 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

20 This title may be cited as the “Coast Guard Blue  
21 Technology Center of Expertise Act”.

22 **SEC. 302. COAST GUARD BLUE TECHNOLOGY CENTER OF**  
23 **EXPERTISE.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after  
25 the date of the enactment of this Act and subject to the  
26 availability of appropriations, the Commandant shall es-

1 tablish under section 58 of title 14, United States Code,  
2 a Blue Technology center of expertise.

3 (b) MISSIONS.—In addition to the missions listed in  
4 section 58(b) of title 14, United States Code, the Center—

5 (1) shall—

6 (A) promote awareness within the Coast  
7 Guard of the range and diversity of Blue Tech-  
8 nologies and their potential to enhance Coast  
9 Guard mission readiness, operational perform-  
10 ance, and regulation of such technologies;

11 (B) function as an interactive conduit to  
12 enable the sharing and dissemination of Blue  
13 Technology information between the Coast  
14 Guard and representatives from the private sec-  
15 tor, academia, nonprofit organizations, and  
16 other Federal agencies;

17 (C) increase awareness among Blue Tech-  
18 nology manufacturers, entrepreneurs, and ven-  
19 dors of Coast Guard acquisition policies, proce-  
20 dures, and business practices; and

21 (D) provide technical support, coordina-  
22 tion, and assistance to Coast Guard districts  
23 and the Coast Guard Research and Develop-  
24 ment Center, as appropriate; and



1           (2) subject to the requirements of the Coast  
2       Guard Academy, may coordinate with the Academy  
3       to develop appropriate curricula regarding Blue  
4       Technology to be offered in professional courses of  
5       study to give Coast Guard cadets and officer can-  
6       didates a greater background and understanding of  
7       Blue Technologies.

8       (c) BLUE TECHNOLOGY EXPOSITION; BRIEFING.—  
9       Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment  
10      of this Act, the Commandant shall provide to the Com-  
11      mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House  
12      of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
13      Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing on  
14      the costs and benefits of hosting a biennial Coast Guard  
15      Blue Technology exposition to further interactions be-  
16      tween representatives from the private sector, academia,  
17      and nonprofit organizations, and the Coast Guard and ex-  
18      amine emerging technologies and Coast Guard mission de-  
19      mands.

20      (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21           (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the  
22      Blue Technology center of expertise established  
23      under this section.

24           (2) COMMANDANT.—The term “Commandant”  
25      means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

1           (3) BLUE TECHNOLOGY.—The term “Blue  
2           Technology” means any technology, system, or plat-  
3           form that—

4                   (A) is designed for use or application  
5                   above, on, or below the sea surface or that is  
6                   otherwise applicable to Coast Guard operational  
7                   needs, including such a technology, system, or  
8                   platform that provides continuous or persistent  
9                   coverage; and

10                   (B) supports or facilitates—

11                           (i) maritime domain awareness, in-  
12                           cluding—

13                                   (I) surveillance and monitoring;

14                                   (II) observation, measurement,  
15                                   and modeling; or

16                                   (III) information technology and  
17                                   communications;

18                                   (ii) search and rescue;

19                                   (iii) emergency response;

20                                   (iv) maritime law enforcement;

21                                   (v) marine inspections and investiga-  
22                                   tions; or

23                                   (vi) protection and conservation of the  
24                                   marine environment.