

Coast Guard Protection and Accountability Act of 2024

Section-by-Section

Section 1. Short Title; table of contents

This section provides that the Act may be cited as the “*Coast Guard Protection and Accountability Act of 2024*.”

Section 2. Findings

This section outlines Congress’s findings of facts related to Operation Fouled Anchor and the United States Coast Guard’s (Coast Guard or Service) Accountability and Transparency Review.

Section 3. Implementation Status of Directed Actions

This section directs the Coast Guard to provide an annual report to Congress for the next three years outlining the implementation efforts of the Commandant of the Coast Guard’s directed actions, a plan to implement any measures not yet implemented, metrics to determine effectiveness of the actions, and any additional actions the Coast Guard is taking to mitigate instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment within its ranks.

Section 4. Independent Review of Coast Guard Reforms

This section directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to Congress on the Coast Guard’s implementation efforts of the Commandant’s directed actions, the effectiveness of those efforts, and any additional measures the Coast Guard should implement.

Section 5. Requirement to Maintain Certain Records

This section requires the Coast Guard to maintain deliberative documents related to prosecution decisions for not less than seven years. It provides a requirement for a signing the final action memo and prosecution memo and maintaining a record that details who made the prosecutorial determination and what documents that person reviewed while making the decision.

Section 6. Study on the Coast Guard Academy Oversight

This section directs the Coast Guard to conduct a study on governance at the Coast Guard Academy and provide recommendations to Congress within a year of enactment to improve governance at the Academy.

Section 7. Providing for the Transfer of a Cadet who is the Victim of a Sexual Assault or Related Offence

This section provides for the transfer of a cadet at the Coast Guard Academy who is the victim of a sexual assault to another military service academy. The section specifies that cadets who transfer to another military service academy can elect to accept an appointment as a permanent commissioned officer in the Coast Guard in the same way other Coast Guard Academy graduate's commission. This section mirrors comparable provisions that apply to cadets at other military service academies.

Section 8. Designation of Officers with Particular Expertise in Military Justice or Healthcare

This section provides authority to the Coast Guard to designate a limited number of Officers of the Coast Guard as having particular expertise in military justice and health care professions and not subject to promotion under the Active Duty Promotion List. The provision would allow lawyers and health care professionals to compete amongst other Coast Guard lawyers and health care professionals for promotion rather than the entire Active Duty Promotion List.

Section. 9 Direct Hire Authority for Certain Personnel of Coast Guard

This section provides for the direct hire authority of the integrative primary prevention workforce and civilian faculty members at the Coast Guard Academy. This provision sunsets on September 30, 2034.

Section. 10 Safe-to-report policy for Coast Guard

This section provides safe to report language regarding reports of sexual harassment at the Coast Guard Academy. It mirrors similar protections available to cadets at other military service academies.

Section 11 Modification of Delivery Date of Coast Guard Sexual Assault Report

This section modifies the due date of the Coast Guard's annual report on sexual assault and harassment report to align with the due date with the annual Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military (DoD Report).

Section 12. Higher-Level Review of Board of Determination Decisions

The section provides for a secondary review if a review board determines that an officer convicted of sexual assault should be retained within the Coast Guard.

Section 13. Review of Discharge or Dismissal

This section allows a board of review to downgrade an honorable discharge or dismissal to a general discharge or dismissal upon finding that a former member who, while serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces, committed sexual assault or sexual harassment.