



COMMITTEE ON

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

**SAM GRAVES, CHAIRMAN**

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## **H.R. 4275 , the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025* Section-by-Section**

### *Section 1. Short title; table of contents.*

This section provides that the Act may be cited as the “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025.” The section also includes the table of contents for the bill.

### *Section 2. Commandant defined.*

This section defines “Commandant” as the Commandant of the Coast Guard in this Act.

## **Title I—Coast Guard**

### **Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations**

#### *Section 101. Authorizations of appropriations.*

This section amends section 4902 of title 14, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2029 for the United States Coast Guard (Coast Guard or Service) at levels based on 2023 authorized levels adjusted for inflation.

#### *Section 102. Authorized levels of military strength and training.*

This section authorizes 50,000 active-duty personnel for the Coast Guard for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, 55,000 for fiscal year 2027 and 60,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 and 2029 following a demonstration of sufficient Administration Budget to support that strength level.

### **Subtitle B—Accountability**

#### *Section 111. Annual report on progress of certain homeporting projects.*

This section requires the Commandant to issue an annual report on the progress of all approved Coast Guard cutter homeporting projects in Coast Guard District 17, with respect to Fast Response Cutters, Offshore Patrol Cutters, and the USCGC STORIS.

*Section 112. Major acquisitions.*

This section aligns the definition of major acquisitions programs across title 14, United States Code.

*Section 113. Quarterly acquisition brief requirements.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to provide a quarterly acquisition briefing to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on the status of major acquisitions within the Service.

*Section 114. Overdue reports.*

This section requires an annual accounting of and remediation plan for the Congressionally mandated reports and briefings that the Coast Guard has failed to produce to Congress.

*Section 115. Requirement for Coast Guard to provide analysis of alternatives for aircraft.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to provide the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation a report on the status of implementing the Government Accountability Office report entitled, “Aircraft Fleet and Aviation Workforce Assessments Needed.”

*Section 116. Oversight of funds provided pursuant to fiscal year 2025 budget reconciliation legislation.*

This section includes reporting and oversight requirements on the \$24.593 billion appropriated for the Coast Guard in the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*. The section mirrors language included in the House version of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*.

*Section 117. Regular polar security cutter updates.*

This section requires regular reports to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the progress of its Polar Security Cutter acquisition program and directs the Coast Guard to provide timely briefings and notifications to Congress when there are significant changes in the Polar Security Cutter acquisition process.

**Title II — Organization, Authorities, Acquisition, and Personnel of the Coast Guard**

**Subtitle A—Organization**

*Section 201. Secretary of the Coast Guard.*

This section establishes a service secretary within the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, clarifies agency authorities, and establishes an Office of the Inspector General of the

Coast Guard and Office of the Chief Prosecutor.

*Section 202. Reappointment of Commandant.*

This section limits the appointment of the Commandant of the Coast Guard to one term, and one additional term.

*Section 203. Special Advisor to Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs.*

This section amends chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, to establish a Special Advisor to the Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian affairs.

*Section 204. Reinstatement of training course on workings of Congress.*

This section reinstates a requirement for Coast Guard Flag Officers and Senior Executive Service members to take a training course on the workings of Congress.

*Section 205. Services and use of funds for, and leasing of, the National Coast Guard Museum.*

This section allows the Coast Guard to lease the National Coast Guard Museum and other properties owned by the National Coast Guard Museum Association adjacent to the Museum. It allows the Coast Guard to solicit and accept services from nonprofit entities and enter into contracts and memorandums of agreement with non-profit entities, including the Association, to acquire such services.

**Subtitle B—Authorities**

*Section 211. Enhanced use property pilot program.*

This section amends section 504 of title 14, United States Code to provide the Coast Guard authority to conduct a pilot program for long-term leasing of real property. The pilot program on this authority sunsets on December 31, 2029.

*Section 212. Public availability of information.*

This section directs the Coast Guard to make information on the interdiction and quantity of drugs and people interdicted publicly available.

*Section 213. Timely reimbursement of damage claims for Coast Guard property.*

This section amends section 546 of title 14, United States Code, to modify how funds acquired during reimbursement for property damaged by a private party are treated.

*Section 214. Uniform funding and management system for morale, well-being, and recreation programs and Coast Guard Exchange.*

This section authorizes funds appropriated to the Coast Guard for morale, well-being, and recreation programs and the Coast Guard Exchange to be treated as non-appropriated funds and allows them to remain available until expended. This improves financial management, by allowing a single accounting systems for these programs.

*Section 215. Coast Guard property.*

This section amends title 14, United States Code, to provide the Coast Guard authority to enter into cooperative agreements with states, political subdivisions of a state, Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and other Federal agencies for the purposes of mitigation and management of natural and cultural resources.

*Section 216. Cyber coordination and support in foreign territories.*

This section authorizes the Coast Guard to support foreign governments in cyber security efforts that strengthen the safety and operation of the United States maritime transportation system.

*Section 217. Modification of treatment of minor construction and improvement project management.*

This section increases the threshold for minor construction and improvements for Coast Guard assets that can be funded with operating funds to \$2 million.

*Section 218. Modification of authority for special purpose facilities.*

This section amends section 907 of title 14 of United States Code to authorize the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to expand the types of facilities that can be leased for up to 30 years.

*Section 219. Preparedness plans for Coast Guard properties located in tsunami inundation zones.*

This section requires the Commandant, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to develop location specific tsunami preparedness plans for Coast Guard properties located in tsunami inundation zones.

*Section 220. Additional Pribilof Island transition completion actions.*

This section requires the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to provide quarterly updates to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on the status of Coast Guard's efforts to establish a forward operating base in St. Paul, Alaska

*Section 221. Scientific mission for USCGC STORIS.*

This section requires that the Commandant enter into memorandum of agreement with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to govern the use of the STORIS to conduct research or other scientific activities. The Commandant may also enter into agreements with other Federal, state, local entities, institutions of higher education, or research institutes to use the STORIS to conduct research, facilitate science activities, data collection. The Commandant is prohibited from charging a fee for the use of the STORIS.

*Section 222. Coast Guard access to Department of the Treasury fund.*

This section amends language to expressly allow the Coast Guard to utilize funds from the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund by eliminating specific references to the Coast Guard and instead encompassing the Coast Guard within “a Department of the Treasury law enforcement organization.”

**Subtitle C—Acquisition**

*Section 231. Modification of prohibition on use of lead systems integrators.*

This section defines the term “lead systems integrators” as such term is defined in the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006* (P.L. 109-163).

*Section 232. Acquisition Improvements.*

This section authorizes improvements in the Coast Guard’s acquisition practices, provides a definition for service life extension programs, requires consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procurement, and modernizes acquisition practices to place value on the experience and capabilities of a contractor.

*Section 233. Restriction on acquisition, procurement, or construction of vessels in foreign shipyards.*

This section amends the prohibition on foreign construction prohibition of Coast Guard vessels in section 1151 of title 14, United States Code, to prohibit the Coast Guard from leasing or otherwise acquiring foreign built vessels. The section also requires the President to notify Congress if the requirements of the section are waived.

*Section 234. Floating drydock for United States Coast Guard Yard.*

This section specifies the permissible acquisition methods for the Coast Guard to acquire a floating drydock for use at the United States Coast Guard Yard.

*Section 235. Great Lakes icebreaking.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to provide Congress a plan for the Service to acquire domestic icebreakers on the Great Lakes and also authorizes a pilot program to determine icebreaking needs on the Great Lakes.

**Subtitle D—Personnel**

*Section 241. Family leave policies for Coast Guard.*

This section amends section 2512 of title 14, United States Code, to provide members of the Coast Guard reserve access to family leave programs, and amends section 2512 to ensure Coast Guard members have access to family leave when members welcome a child via long-term foster care placement.

*Section 242. Modifications to career flexibility program.*

This section provides disability, death, and other benefits to a disabled Coast Guard member or the surviving dependents of a member who dies while participating in the program and reduces the amount of obligated duty service for participating members. It also extends accessibility to behavioral health, legal, and other resources to victims of an alleged sex-related offense.

*Section 243. Direct hire authority for certain personnel.*

This section allows the Coast Guard to hire personnel in certain positions directly.

*Section 244. Command sponsorship for dependents of members of Coast Guard assigned to Unalaska, Alaska.*

This section requires the Commandant to grant command sponsorship to Coast Guard dependents assigned to Unalaska, Alaska, upon request of the member.

*Section 245. Authorization for maternity uniform allowance for officers.*

This section allows for a limited supplemental cash allowance for pregnant officers to purchase maternity and properly sized uniforms.

*Section 246. Consolidation of authorities for college student precommissioning initiative.*

This section consolidates authorization for the Coast Guard College Student Precommissioning Initiative and eliminates any ambiguity between competing statutory authorities regarding the Coast Guard College Student Precommissioning Initiative that presently exist in sections 2131 and 3710 of title 14, United States Code.

*Section 247. Additional available guidance and considerations for reserve selection boards.*

This section allows Coast Guard Reserve Selection Boards to consider the specialty of the officer, in a similar way to that already undertaken by active-duty boards, per section 2114 of title 14, United States Code. This ensures the Coast Guard Reserve has senior officers with proficiency in specific specialized skills.

*Section 248. Housing.*

This section amends Chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, to allow the Commandant to acquire existing family housing units and accept funds for administrative expenses related to real property transactions, similar to sections 2824 and 2695 of title 10, United States Code. It also requires the Commandant to submit a report on the status of the implementation of a 2024 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the Coast Guard's Housing Program.

*Section 249. Behavioral Health.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to establish a pilot program to integrate behavioral health technicians into three or more Coast Guard units to facilitate integrated behavioral health care for service members. It also requires that the Coast Guard to hire, train, and deploy at least five additional behavioral health specialists to expand access to counseling services for Coast Guard members, including specialists with training in military sexual trauma.

*Section 250. Travel allowance for members of Coast Guard assigned to Alaska.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to implement a policy to reimburse Coast Guard members assigned to a duty location in Alaska for the cost of airfare for such members to travel to their home of record or state of legal residence through December 31, 2029, or until the assignment pay or special duty pay authority expires.

*Section 251. Tuition Assistance and Advanced Education Assistance Pilot Program.*

This section establishes a Tuition Assistance Pilot Program (Pilot Program) for active-duty members of the Coast Guard serving at sea to encourage more members to pursue afloat opportunities. The Pilot Program reduces certain service obligations from education benefits and creates tuition assistance funding levels for members who successfully complete a duty assignment at sea.

*Section 252. Recruitment, relocation, and retention incentive program for civilian firefighters employed by Coast Guard in remote locations.*

This section authorizes the Coast Guard to provide recruitment, relocation, and retention bonuses to civilian firefighters at remotely located Coast Guard fire departments.

*Section 253. Notification.*

This section requires the Commandant to provide the relevant committees of Congress an annual notification that includes the status of funding and impacts of any failure to provide future year appropriations for the Coast Guard.

**Subtitle E—Coast Guard Academy**

*Section 261. Modification of Board of Visitors.*

This section updates the membership, appointment periods, and length of service, duties, meetings, staffing, and reports related to the Coast Guard Academy Board of Visitors.

*Section 262. Study on Coast Guard Academy oversight.*

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

*Section 263. Electronic locking mechanisms to ensure Coast Guard Academy cadet room security.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to install electronic locking mechanisms on each room at the Coast Guard Academy, test such mechanisms for proper function, and use a system that electronically records access information. This section also requires the Superintendent to promulgate a policy and cadet training regarding cadet room security policies and procedures.

*Section 264. Report on existing behavioral health and wellness support services facilities at Coast Guard Academy.*

This section requires the Commandant to submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the existing behavioral health and wellness support services facilities at the Coast Guard Academy that are offered to cadets and officer candidates.

*Section 265. Required posting of information.*

This section requires written information to be posted in each dormitory at the Coast Guard Academy regarding methods of reporting crimes including harassment, sexual assault, and sexual harassment, as well as external resources for wellness support, work-life, medical services, and support related to behavioral health, civil rights, sexual assault, and sexual harassment.



*Section 266. Installation of multipurpose medical privacy rooms.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to install or construct no fewer than two rooms at the Coast Guard Academy for the purpose of providing privacy to cadets and officer candidates seeking medical or other health-related services.

*Section 267. Coast Guard Academy Room Reassignment.*

This section allows Coast Guard Academy cadets to request room reassignments, consistent with policy, if they experience discomfort.

*Section 268. Authorization for use of Coast Guard Academy facilities and equipment by covered foundations.*

This section allows the Coast Guard Academy to provide facilities and equipment support and endorsement to charitable foundations that support the Academy. The section mirrors authorities provided to other military service academies.

*Section 269. Concurrent jurisdiction at Coast Guard Academy.*

This section authorizes the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to establish concurrent jurisdiction between the Federal Government and the State of Connecticut to investigate and prosecute crimes under Connecticut law that are committed on Coast Guard Academy property.

**Subtitle F—Reports and Policies**

*Section 271. Policy and briefing on availability of naloxone to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses.*

This section requires the Commandant to update the policy of the Coast Guard regarding the use of medication to treat drug overdoses, including naloxone for fentanyl overdoses. The policy requires access to such medication at Coast Guard facilities, onboard Coast Guard assets, and during Coast Guard operations. It also requires that all Coast Guard installations maintain a supply of naloxone (or similar medication) to treat overdoses by Coast Guard members or during interactions with the public.

*Section 272. Policy on methods to reduce incentives for illicit maritime drug trafficking.*

This section requires the Commandant, in consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense to develop a policy to address, disincentivize, and interdict illicit maritime trafficking of controlled substances and precursors being transported to produce illicit synthetic drugs.

*Section 273. Report on condition of aids to navigation.*

This section requires a one-time report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on the condition of dayboards and the placement of buoys on the Missouri River and within the First and Thirteenth Coast Guard Districts. It also prevents the Commandant from removing current aids to navigation unless there is an imminent threat to life or safety.

*Section 274. Feasibility study on supporting additional port visits and deployments in support of Operation Blue Pacific.*

This section requires the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study the feasibility of increasing additional port visits and deployments in support of Operation Blue Pacific, or any successor operation oriented toward Oceania.

*Section 275. Study and gap analysis with respect to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi aviation hangar.*

This section requires the Commandant to complete a study and gap analysis with respect to the Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi Aviation Hangar and its capacity to accommodate the aircraft currently assigned as well as any aircraft anticipated to be assigned in the future.

*Section 276. Report on impacts of joint travel regulations on members of Coast Guard who rely on ferry systems.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to study and report on the impacts to members who utilize ferry travel for permanent change of station moves, official travel, or commuting.

*Section 277. Report on Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.*

This section requires the Commandant to prepare a report on the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

*Section 278. Report and briefings on implementing section 564 of title 14.*

This section requires the Commandant to report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation the cost of meeting the requirements of section 564 of title 14, of United States Code, administration of sexual assault forensic examination kits.

*Section 279. Report on role of Coast Guard.*

This section requires the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to draft a report on expected role of the Coast Guard in five, ten, and twenty years in assisting the Navy and other nation's Coast Guards in the Indo-Pacific with

building capacity, providing presence in the Arctic and Antarctic, and law enforcement capabilities the other departments do not possess.

*Section 280. Report on Coast Guard personnel skills.*

This section requires the Commandant with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to submit to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation an analysis of skills and experience of separating Coast Guard personnel and mechanisms to facilitate their knowledge of opportunities for future employment in the dredging industry.

*Section. 281. Report on Coast Guard search and rescue operations.*

This section requires the Commandant to submit a report to Congress detailing the impact of the Assignment Year 2024 Force Alignment Initiative station closures and reductions on sufficiency of Coast Guard Search and Rescue operations.

### **Title III — Shipping and Navigation**

#### **Subtitle A—Merchant Mariner Credentials**

*Section 301. Merchant Mariner Credentialing.*

This section amends the requirements for certain merchant mariner credentials to consider advances in technology and training, and to align Coast Guard requirements with international requirements. It makes the reductions of lengths of certain periods of service passed in the FY 24 NDAA (P.L. 118-31) permanent. It clarifies that renewals to existing merchant mariner credentials begin the day after the expiration of the existing credential. It enables American Samoans who meet the definition of a Non-Citizen National to be eligible for merchant mariner credentials.

*Section 302. Nonoperating individual.*

This section extends through 2029 the current moratorium on enforcement of violations of the requirement that workers on certain vessels, unless specifically exempted in law, have a merchant mariner credential even if those workers are not involved in the operation of the vessel. This extension allows workers not involved in the operation of the vessel to work on such vessel without having a merchant mariner credential.

#### **Subtitle B—Vessel Safety**

*Section 311. Grossly negligent operations of a vessel.*

This section makes the grossly negligent operation of the vessel that results in serious bodily injury a Class E felony.

*Section 312. Performance driven examination schedule.*

This section allows, with respect to the examination of foreign tank vessels, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to adopt a performance-driven examination schedule to which such vessels are to be examined and the frequency with which such examinations occur.

*Section 313. Fishing vessel and fisherman training safety.*

This section authorizes \$6 million to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for each of fishing vessel safety grants and fishing vessel training grants. Funds for these programs were previously authorized to the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

*Section 314. Designating pilotage waters for the Straits of Mackinac.*

This section requires vessels passing through the Straits of Mackinac, which connect Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, to engage a United States or Canadian registered pilot to improve the safety of transits through the Straits.

*Section 315. Receipts; international agreements for ice patrol services.*

This section authorizes funds received from other countries for the purposes reimbursing the United States cost of the North Atlantic Ocean Ice Patrol to remain available to the Coast Guard until expended.

*Section 316. Study of amphibious vessels.*

This section requires the Commandant to conduct a study to determine the applicability of current safety regulations to certain commercial amphibious vessels and provide a report to Congress within one year.

*Section 317. St. Lucie River railroad bridge.*

This section directs the Coast Guard to conduct an independent boat traffic study at the St. Lucie River Railroad Bridge before adopting a final permit deviation.

**Subtitle C—Ports**

*Section 321. Ports and Waterways Safety.*

This section conforms port safety provisions to port security changes made in the maritime title of the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-254).

*Section 322. Study on Bering Strait Vessel Traffic Projections and Emergency Response Posture at Ports of the United States.*

This section directs a National Academies of Science study on the current volume of commercial traffic that transits through the Bering Strait and projections for traffic growth over the next decade. The report would also assess the adequacy of emergency response capabilities and infrastructure at the ports of Point Spencer, Nome, and Kotzebue, to address future navigation safety risks and geographic challenges necessary to conduct emergency maritime response operations in the Arctic environment.

*Section 323. Improving Vessel Traffic Service Monitoring.*

This section implements recommendations from a National Transportation Safety Board report examining the anchor strike of the underwater pipeline in San Pedro Bay, California, in 2021. The provision seeks to increase the distance between an anchorage and underwater pipelines to avoid incursions and improve the vessel traffic service monitoring by adding audio and visual alarms for proximity alerts.

*Section 324. Controlled Substance Onboard Vessels.*

This section clarifies that under section 70503(a) of title 46, United States Code, it is a prohibited act to place or cause a controlled substance to be placed on a vessel to be smuggled at sea.

*Section 325. Cyber-Incident Training.*

This section authorizes the Coast Guard to conduct no-notice exercises within Captain of the Port Zones.

*Section 326. Navigational protocols.*

This section directs the Commandant of the Coast Guard to examine the navigation protocols of allied nations with respect to fog and low visibility conditions.

**Subtitle D—Matters Involving Autonomous Systems**

*Section 331. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems.*

This section establishes a National Autonomous Maritime Systems Advisory Committee within the Coast Guard.

*Section 332. Pilot program for governance and oversight of small uncrewed maritime systems.*

This section establishes a two-year pilot program during which small uncrewed maritime systems owned, operated, or chartered by NOAA or performing oceanographic surveys on behalf of NOAA, shall not be subject to any vessel inspection, design, operations, navigation, credentialing, or training requirement, law or regulation that NOAA determines will harm real-time operational extreme weather oceanographic and atmospheric data collection and predictions.

*Section 333. Coast Guard training course.*

This section requires the Commandant to develop a training course on small uncrewed maritime systems and offer it annually to Coast Guard personnel working with or regulating small uncrewed maritime systems.

*Section 334. NOAA membership on Autonomous Vessel Policy Council.*

This section requires the Commandant, with the concurrence of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations of NOAA, to establish the permanent membership of a NOAA employee to the Automated and Autonomous Vessel Policy Council of the Coast Guard.

*Section 335. Technology pilot program.*

This section amends section 319(b)(1) of title 14, United States Code, to increase the number of Coast Guard Small Boats involved in a pilot project to retrofit existing vessels with autonomous control and computer vision technology from two to four.

*Section 336. Uncrewed Systems Capabilities Report.*

This section directs the Commandant to report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on its efforts to establish an unmanned systems capabilities office.

*Section 337. Medium unmanned aircraft systems capabilities study.*

This section directs the Coast Guard to carry out a pilot program to determine the efficacy of expanding the Service's medium unmanned aircraft program to medium endurance cutters.

*Section 338. Comptroller General report on Coast Guard acquisition and deployment of unmanned systems.*

This section directs the GAO to carry out a study on the Coast Guard's use of and procurement practices related to unmanned systems.

*Section 339. National Academies of Sciences report on unmanned systems and use of data.*

This section directs the Commandant of the Coast Guard to commission a report by the National Academies of Sciences on available unmanned and autonomous technologies that support Coast Guard missions.

*Section 340. Unmanned aircraft systems.*

This section directs the Coast Guard to use unmanned aircraft systems it procures primarily to carry out the Service's primary missions.

## Subtitle E—Other Matters

### *Section 341. Information on type approval certificates.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to provide certain ballast water-related data to states upon their request.

### *Section 342. Clarification of authorities.*

This section requires the Maritime Administration to be the Federal lead agency for the purposes of the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* with respect to *Deepwater Port Act* (DWPA) applications submitted after the date of enactment.

### *Section 343. Amendments to passenger vessel security and safety requirements.*

This section requires passenger vessels that carry at least 250 passengers to account for the voyage length and number of personnel onboard when determining what medication to prevent sexually transmitted diseases they should carry. This section also requires a system to be implemented that records the date, time, and identity of each crew member accessing a passenger stateroom onboard such vessels.

### *Section 344. Extension of pilot program to establish a cetacean desk for Puget Sound region.*

This section amends section 70103(c) of title 46, United States Code, to extend the authorization for the Puget Sound Cetacean Desk from four years to six years.

### *Section 345. Suspension of enforcement of use of devices broadcasting on AIS for purposes of marking fishing gear.*

This section extends the temporary authorization to utilize automatic identification system devices to mark fishing gear until 2030.

### *Section 346. Classification Societies.*

This section amends current law to allow the delegation of authority to inspect mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs) working on the United States Outer Continental Shelf to certain foreign classification societies even if the home nation of such societies does not allow delegation of inspection authority for MODUs operating in the waters of the home nation.

### *Section 347. Abandoned and derelict vessel removals.*

This section expands the existing prohibition on abandonment to non-barge vessels and requires the Coast Guard to keep a National inventory of any abandoned non-barge vessels.

*Section 348. Reporting on certain Coast Guard requirements.*

This section requires the Commandant to provide a report on legislative and regulatory recommendations related to cases of harassment, including defining those behaviors and precluding Coast Guard administrative action when the harassment was not the result of the company's policies and procedures.

*Section 349. Offshore operations.*

This section extends the application of exemptions encompassed in section 3702 of title 46 which allowed certain vessels to transfer oil to "offshore drilling and production facilities" to now permit the transfer of fuel to offshore facilities in support of exploration, development, or production of offshore energy resources.

*Section 350. Administrative costs.*

This section provides a technical correction to section 9(b) of the *Marine Debris Act* (33 U.S.C. 1958)

**Subtitle F—American Offshore Workers Fairness**

*Section 361. Manning and crewing requirements for certain outer continental shelf vessels, vehicles, and structures.*

This section clarifies manning and crewing requirements for certain maritime operators.

*Section 362. Outer Continental Shelf.*

This section clarifies the activities that foreign vessels can undertake while operating on the Outer Continental Shelf.

*Section 363. Foreign vessel notifications.*

This section provides transparency regarding the authority under which foreign vessels operate on the Outer Continental Shelf by requiring the publication of coastwise trade violations, the publication of letter rulings, and advanced notice of certain vessels operating on the Outer Continental Shelf.

*Section 364. Effective date.*

This section delays implementation of sections 361, 362 and 363 of the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025* for one year after enactment.



*Section 365. Anchor handling activities.*

This section clarifies requirements for certain vessels engaged in supporting offshore activities.

*Section 366. Near shore cable laying barges.*

This section prevents the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating from enforcing citizenship or credentialing requirements for two years for near shore cable laying vertical trenching injector operators or support personnel operating specialized equipment. During those two years, the Commandant shall ensure near shore cable laying vertical trenching injector operators develop processes and requirements for certification and training and certify and train a sufficient cadre of qualified United States mariners to perform these jobs.

## **Title IV — Oil Pollution Incident Liability**

*Section 401. Vessel response plans.*

This section provides the Coast Guard authority to verify certain existing requirements of vessel response plans. The section also requires a GAO report on the state of maritime firefighting authorities, jurisdiction and plan review, including factors that impact Federal and non-Federal cooperation.

*Section 402. Use of marine casualty investigations.*

This section clarifies that the Coast Guard can use Marine Casualty Investigation Reports when adjudicating claims under the *Oil Pollution Act of 1990* (33 U.S.C. 2713).

*Section 403. Timing of review.*

This section clarifies the timing of legal challenges against a Federal On-Scene Coordinator's response decisions during an oil spill emergency.

*Section 404. Online incident reporting system.*

This section requires the National Response Center to develop and maintain a web-based application to receive notifications of oil discharges or releases of hazardous substances.

*Section 405. Investment of Exxon Valdez oil spill court recovery in high yield investments and marine research.*

This section removes a barrier between funds awarded as a result of a \$900 million civil settlement resulting from the 1989 oil spill and allows the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to allocate the funds in a manner that prioritizes habitat protection and habitat restoration programs.

*Section 406. Additional response assets.*

This section supports additional response assets for oil spills by providing a waiver of certain requirements for vessels not normally engaged in such activity.

*Section 407. International maritime oil spill response.*

This section requires the Commandant to coordinate with the Secretary of State to review and update the Canada-US Joint Maritime Pollution Contingency Plan and then conduct an annual joint training exercise.

**Title V – Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Response**

*Section 501. Independent review of Coast Guard reforms.*

This section directs the GAO to report to Congress on the Coast Guard’s implementation efforts of the “Commandant’s Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency” report dated November 27, 2023, the effectiveness of those efforts, and any additional measures the Coast Guard should implement.

*Section 502. Comprehensive policy and procedures on retention and access to evidence and records relating to sexual misconduct and other misconduct.*

This section amends chapter 9 of title 14, United States Code, to require the Coast Guard to issue policy on the retention of and access to evidence and records relating to covered misconduct. It also establishes requirements regarding victim access to records after final disposition actions, requires retention of documents relating to charging determinations for certain crimes, and directs the Coast Guard to brief Congress if timelines for expedited processing of victim requests are not met.

*Section 503. Consideration of request for transfer of a cadet at the Coast Guard Academy who is the victim of a sexual assault or related offense.*

This section requires the Commandant to provide for timely consideration and action on a request submitted by a Coast Guard Academy cadet who is the victim of an alleged sexual assault or other offense covered by Article 120, 120c, or 130 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to either transfer to another military service academy or to enroll in a Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program affiliated with another institution of higher education.

*Section 504. 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 allow these officers to compete for promotion within their own specialty rather than against officers on the Active-Duty Promotion List.

*Section 505. Safe-to-Report policy for Coast Guard.*

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

*Section 506. Modification of reporting requirements on covered misconduct in Coast Guard.*

This section expands the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Academy's sexual assault and sexual harassment reporting requirements to include: covered misconduct; retaliation for reporting; case dispositions; disciplinary action taken against perpetrators; investigations conducted for each case; and collateral misconduct. It also requires separate reporting for incidents involving recruits and officer candidates, and for the Coast Guard to provide a report to Congress on the implementation status of directed actions from the "Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency" report dated November 27, 2023.

*Section 507. Modifications to the officer involuntary separation process.*

This section replaces the need for a Board of Determination to review an officer's record and determine if that officer must show cause for an involuntary separation to occur with a requirement for the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to promulgate regulations to govern the show cause process, bringing the Coast Guard process into line with other military services. Board of Inquiry cases will be sent directly to the Secretary for final decision.

*Section 508. Review of discharge characterization.*

This section amends section 2158 of title 14, United States Code, to allow a board of review to downgrade an honorable discharge to a general discharge upon finding that a former member who, while serving on active duty as a member of the Coast Guard, committed sexual assault or sexual harassment.

*Section 509. Convicted sex offender as grounds for denial.*

This section amends chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, to allow the denial of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document to an individual who has been convicted of rape, sexual assault, or rape or sexual assault of a child under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

*Section 510. Definition of covered misconduct.*

This section adds a definition of covered misconduct to title 14, United States Code that includes Uniform Code of Military Justice definitions of rape; sexual assault; sexual harassment; abusive sexual contact; aggravated sexual contact; wrongful broadcast, dissemination, or creation of content; child pornography; rape and sexual assault of a child; and domestic violence.

*Section 511. Notification of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice or Manual for Courts Martial relating to covered misconduct.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to report to Congress when there are additions, deletions, or modifications to covered misconduct offenses or other sex-related offenses in the Uniform Code of Military Justice or the Manual for Courts Martial.

*Section 512. Complaints of retaliation by victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment and related persons.*

This section amends section 1562a of title 10, United States Code, to include the Coast Guard in existing Department of Defense requirements to document and track retaliation allegations made by victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment.

*Section 513. Development of policies on military protective orders.*

This section requires the Commandant to update policies regarding military protective order processes for victims of domestic abuse or sex-related offenses, consistent with Department of Defense law and policy. The updated policy also requires a written explanation for denial, a recusal process, and a notification to victims of the process for requesting a military protective order.

*Section 514. Coast Guard implementation of independent review commission recommendations on addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to review and develop a plan to implement the Independent Review Commission's recommendations to address sexual misconduct. The section also requires the Commandant to brief the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation periodically on its implementation progress.

*Section 515. Policy relating to care and support of victims of covered misconduct.*

This section directs the Coast Guard to issue a policy to allow a victim of covered misconduct to report such misconduct to an appropriate individual within the Coast Guard and receive care and support without unreasonable delay. This section also requires the Coast Guard to revise its definition of "intimate partner" to be consistent with the meaning given the term in section 930 of title 10, United States Code.

*Section 516. Establishment of special victim capabilities to respond to allegations of certain special victim offenses.*

This section amends section 573 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013* (10 U.S.C. 1561 note) to include the Coast Guard in existing Department of Defense requirements to establish special victims capabilities for investigating and prosecuting allegations

of child abuse, serious domestic violence, or sexual offenses. This section also directs the Coast Guard to brief Congress on the implementation plan, initial capabilities, and evaluation of effectiveness of these special victims' capabilities.

*Section 517. Members asserting post-traumatic stress disorder, sexual assault, or traumatic brain injury.*

This section amends section 2516 of title 14, United States Code, to expand eligibility for a Coast Guard member alleging the signs and symptoms of a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder described within the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders to request a medical examination prior to involuntary separation. It expands the timeframe for members who were victims of sexual assault to request a medical examination from two years to five years and requires the Coast Guard to notify members of their right to request such an examination when they are given a notice of involuntary separation.

*Section 518. Participation in CATCH a Serial Offender program.*

This section requires the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to ensure the Coast Guard's participation in the Department of Defense Catch a Serial Offender ("CATCH") program, and to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Secretary of Defense to facilitate Coast Guard access to and participation in the CATCH program.

*Section 519. Accountability and transparency relating to allegations of misconduct against senior leaders.*

This section amends chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, to require any credible allegation of misconduct made against a current or former Coast Guard flag officer or Senior Executive Service member to be reported to the Inspector General of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, who shall have the first right to investigate such allegation. The policy established by the Coast Guard should be incorporated in training and publicly distributed.

*Section 520. Confidential reporting of sexual harassment.*

This section amends section 1561b of title 10, United States Code, to extend Department of Defense requirements to the Coast Guard to establish a process for a member of the Coast Guard to confidentially allege a complaint of sexual harassment. Additionally, the Coast Guard must report the data to Congress on such complaints.

*Section 521. Report on policy on whistleblower protections.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to provide Congress with a report assessing current whistleblower policy and command responsibilities for whistleblowers, which shall include recommendations to strengthen whistleblower protections.

*Section 522. Review and modification of Coast Guard Academy policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence.*

This section requires the Coast Guard to review and modify Coast Guard Academy policy related to sexual assault and sexual violence, to establish a primary prevention specialist at the Coast Guard Academy, and to establish a policy for a request for a leave of absence for a cadet who made a report of sexual harassment consistent with the other military service academies.

*Section 523. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Academy access to defense sexual assault incident database.*

This section requires the Commandant to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Defense to enable the Coast Guard's criminal offender case management and analytics database to have system interface access with the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database, and to submit a plan to Congress to carry out the terms of the memorandum of understanding.

*Section 524. Director of Coast Guard Investigative Service.*

This section requires the Director of the Coast Guard Investigative Service to report directly to the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard.

*Section 525. Modifications and revisions relating to reopening retired grade determinations.*

This section amends section 2501(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, to allow a competent authority to reopen the retired grade of a commissioned officer if substantial evidence comes to light that an officer, during the commissioned service of that officer, failed to carry out applicable laws with an intent to deceive or defraud, committed rape or sexual assault, or failed to report instances of sexual assault in accordance with existing law at the time of alleged incident.

*Section 526. Inclusion and command review of information on covered misconduct in personnel service records.*

This section amends chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, to require that if a military member is convicted at court martial, receives non-judicial punishment, or punitive administrative action for covered misconduct, that this substantiated covered misconduct is placed in the personnel records of military members. It also requires commanders or supervisors to review this information when members are transferred or permanently assigned, and during hiring for civilians who are former military members.

*Section 527. Flag officer review of, and concurrence in, separation of members who have reported sexual misconduct.*

This section allows a Coast Guard member who has reported covered misconduct, to request an additional, higher-level review of a proposed involuntary separation. It also establishes a recusal process, and requires all members to be informed of their right to request such reviews when given an involuntary separation proposal.

*Section 528. Expedited transfer in cases of sexual misconduct or domestic violence.*

This section requires the Commandant to update the process for victims of sexual assault or domestic violence to request an expedited transfer to a new unit. Additionally, the section requires recusals and notifications to victims of the expedited transfer option, and a report to Congress on updated policies and information regarding transfers and denials of transfer requests.

*Section 529. Access to temporary separation program for victims of alleged sex-related offenses.*

This section requires the Commandant to update Coast Guard policy to allow members who are victims of sex-related offenses to request a temporary separation even if they have already had a previous temporary separation. The temporary separation may be requested at any point within five years of when the restricted or unrestricted report of a sex-related offense is made, and even if the enlistment period of the member is not nearing expiration.

*Section 530. Policy and program to expand prevention of sexual misconduct.*

This provision requires the Commandant to issue policies that contain elements described in section 1561 of title 10, United States Code, to expand sexual misconduct prevention programs to include increased education and training, promote healthy relationships, foster social courage to promote intervention, address behaviors on the continuum of harm that often result in sexual misconduct, and address alcohol abuse and binge drinking.

*Section 531. Continuous vetting of security clearances.*

This section amends section 1564(c) of title 10, United States Code, to include the Coast Guard and require reinvestigation or readjudication of security clearances for individuals of convicted of sexual assault or sexual harassment, fraud against the United States, or any other violation the Secretary determines that renders the individual susceptible to blackmail.

*Section 532. Training and education programs for covered misconduct prevention and response.*

This section requires modifications to covered misconduct training curriculums for first responders, commanders, and all other Coast Guard members, to address the workforce training recommendations from the Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency" report dated November 27, 2023, and ensure members are fully aware of victim support programs, Department of Veterans Affairs resources, and the Coast Guard Office of the Chief Prosecutor.



## **Title VI—Comptroller General Reports**

*Section 601. Comptroller General report on Coast Guard research, development, and innovation program.*

This section requires the Comptroller General to conduct an assessment of and report on the state of research, development, and innovation programs within the Coast Guard.

*Section 602. Comptroller General review of quality and availability of Coast Guard behavioral health care and resources for personnel wellness.*

This section requires the Comptroller General to conduct a review and report on the quality and availability of behavioral health care and related resources for Coast Guard personnel at Training Center Cape May, the Coast Guard Academy, and other training locations.

*Section 603. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard efforts to reduce prevalence of missing or incomplete medical records and sharing of medical data with Department of Veterans Affairs and other entities.*

This section requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study and complete a report assessing the efforts of the Commandant to reduce the prevalence of missing or incomplete medical records, to share medical data of Coast Guard members with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to ensure that electronic health records are easily accessible. The required study would also examine the ability of relevant personnel to access and search electronic health records.

*Section 604. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard training facility infrastructure.*

This section requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study and complete a report on specified Coast Guard training facility infrastructure, including capital needs, equipment upgrade backlogs, necessary improvements to essential training equipment, security deficiencies, and hazards, and the resources necessary to fully address the infrastructure issues described in the study.

*Section 605. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard basic allowance for housing.*

This section requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study and report on Coast Guard involvement in, and efforts to support, the determination of the cost and housing and the calculation of the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, including identification of Coast Guard duty locations in which there is a misalignment between the basic allowance for housing rate and the prevailing housing cost for members of the Coast Guard.



*Section 606. Comptroller General report on safety and security infrastructure at Coast Guard Academy.*

This section requires the Comptroller General to study and report on the safety and infrastructure at the Coast Guard Academy.

*Section 607. Comptroller General study and report on permanent change of station process.*

This section requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study and report on the efficacy of the permanent change of station process and military rotations of the Coast Guard. This report will describe current policies and costs, an evaluation of the effectiveness of using contracted movers for changing stations, and assessments of how the Coast Guard is meeting rotational goals. The report will also generate recommendations for improving the permanent change of station process for Coast Guard.

## **Title VII — Amendments**

*Section 701. Amendments.*

This section contains technical and conforming amendments related to authorities in title 46, United States Code.