



COMMITTEE ON
**TRANSPORTATION
& INFRASTRUCTURE**

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Division G - *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025*
Section-by-Section

Section 7001. 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 7002. Definitions and Directions.

This section defines within this Act, “Commandant” as the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and “Secretary” and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating. The section also provides instructions to comply with the briefings, policies, plans, reports and strategies directed by this Act.

Section 7103. Automatic Execution of Conforming Changes.

This section provides that when a section repeals, adds, or amends current law, it shall also amend any analysis, table of contents, or similar tabular entries, unless expressly provided otherwise.

Title LXXI — Coast Guard

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Section 7101. Authorization of Appropriations.

This section authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2026 and 2027 for the United States Coast Guard (Coast Guard or Service).

Section 7102. Authorized Levels of Military Strength and Training.

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

Subtitle B—Accountability

Section 7111. Annual Report on Progress of Certain Homeporting Projects.

This section requires the Commandant to issue an annual report on the infrastructure required to homeport Coast Guard surface and air assets.

Section 7112. Major Acquisitions.

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

Section 7113. Quarterly Acquisition Brief Requirements.

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

Section 7114. Overdue Reports.

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

Section 7115. Requirement for Coast Guard to Provide Analysis of Alternatives for Aircraft.

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

Section 7116. Oversight of Funds.

This section requires the Coast Guard to provide a spending plan to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, with regards to the \$24.593 billion appropriated for the Coast Guard in the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*.

Section 7117. 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.

Section 7118. Annual Plan for Coast Guard Operations in the Pacific; Feasibility Study on Supporting Additional Port Visits and Deployments in Support of Operation Blue Pacific.

This section requires the Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense, to submit to the appropriate Congressional committees an annual plan for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific including objectives in the region, capabilities to support those efforts, among other considerations, and an annual budget display for the same. Both the annual plan and budget display must also be briefed annually. This section also requires the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of additional port visits, deployments and presence of fast response cutters in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 7119. Annual Plan for Coast Guard Operations in the Caribbean.

This section requires the Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, to submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual plan for Coast Guard operations in the Caribbean including objectives in the region, capabilities to support these efforts, among other considerations, and an annual budget display for the same. Both the annual plan and budget display must also be briefed annually.

Section 7120. Prohibition on Submission to Congress of Slideshow Presentations.

This section prohibits the Coast Guard from submitting to Congress a slideshow presentation, including a PowerPoint document, in lieu of a briefing, report, plan, strategy or any other document required by this Act.

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

Subtitle A—Authorities

Section 7201. Reorganization of Chapter 3.

This section reorganizes chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, to reflect changes to the organization of the Coast Guard. It does the following:

- Allows for the reappointment of the Commandant for up to four years under certain circumstances;
- Clarifies the reporting chain for the Director of the Coast Guard Investigative Service;
- Updates the number and rolls of Vice Admirals within the Service;
- Establishes a Commandant Advisory Judge Advocate;
- Establishes and a Special Advisor to the Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs;
- Codifies the appointment and duties of the Judge Advocate General of the Coast Guard as well as how to fill vacancies for both the Judge Advocate General and the Deputy Judge Advocate General;
- Reinstates training courses on the workings of Congress requiring attendance by all flag

officers, Coast Guard senior executive service personnel, and political appointees serving in the Coast Guard or at DHS with a Coast Guard portfolio; and modifies the current training for Congressional Affairs Personnel;

- Allows for completion of the construction of the National Coast Guard Museum;
- Clarifies the duties of the Coast Guard; This section also includes several technical amendments.

Section 7202. Public Availability of Information.

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

Section 7203. Modification of Treatment of Minor Construction and Improvement Project Management.

This section increases the threshold to \$2 million for minor construction and improvements for Coast Guard assets.

Section 7204. Agreements.

This section permits the Coast Guard to provide financial assistance to tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to mitigate impacts to natural and cultural resources by Coast Guard actions.

Section 7205. 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 7206. 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 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the status of Coast Guard's efforts to establish a forward operating base in St. Paul, Alaska.

Section 7207. 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 B—Acquisition

Section 7211. 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* (Pub. L. No. 109-163).

Section 7212. 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 7213. Restriction on Acquisition, Procurement, or Construction of Vessels in Foreign Shipyards.

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

Section 7214. Floating Drydock for United States Coast Guard Yard.

This section permits the acquisition, procurement, or construction of a floating drydock to be placed at the Coast Guard Yard, with certain exemptions from current acquisition requirements.

Section 7215. 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 authorizes a pilot program to determine icebreaking needs on the Great Lakes. This section also requires the Commandant to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report assessing options for extending the service life of the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw.

Section 7216. Briefing on Deployment of Special Purpose Craft-Heavy Weather Second Generation (SPEC-HWX II) Vessels in Pacific Northwest.

This section requires the Coast Guard to brief the appropriate Congressional committees on the acquisition, timeline for deployment, and funding levels of Special Purpose Craft Heavy Weather (SPC-HWX II) vessels consistent with requirements established by Pub. L. No. 117-263. The Coast Guard is also required to identify any obstacles to deploying the vessels in a timely manner and any instances when the Coast Guard was unable to complete a mandated statutory mission due to a lack of the first-generation heavy weather vessels.

Section 7217. Report on 87-Foot Patrol Boat Fleet.

This section directs the Commandant to provide a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate articulating Coast Guard strategy for replacing the mission capabilities provided by the 87-foot patrol boat fleet that was operational on September 30, 2020.

Section 7218. Procurement of Tactical Maritime Surveillance Systems.

This section directs that if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines there is a need to procure a tactical maritime surveillance system for the Coast Guard and United States Customs and Border Protection to use in the areas of operation of Coast Guard Sectors San Diego, San Juan, Key West, and Station South Padre Island, that the Secretary shall procure such systems.

Subtitle C—Personnel

Section 7221. Designation of Officers with Particular Expertise in Military Justice or Health Care.

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 all officers on the Active-Duty Promotion List.

Section 7222. Deferred Retirement and Retention in Active Duty Status for Health Professions Officers.

This section permits the Secretary to defer the compulsory retirement or separation of a “health professions officer,” as defined, from age 62 to 68.

Section 7223. Modifications to the Officer Involuntary Separation Process.

This section repeals Boards of Review under Section 2160 of title 14, United States Code, and amends the review of records process in section 2158 eliminating the need to convene a board of officers and instead deferring to the Secretary to promulgate procedures to review the record. Board of Inquiry cases will be sent directly to the Secretary for final decision.

Section 7224. 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 his or her commissioned service, 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 7225. 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 ensure Coast Guard members have access to family leave when welcoming a child via long-term foster care placement.

Section 7226. 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 7227. Members Asserting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Sexual Assault, or Traumatic Brain Injury.

This section amends section 2516 of title 14, United States Code, to allow a Coast Guard member to request a medical examination prior to involuntary separation if such member alleges 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. It expands the timeframe for members who were victims of sexual assault to request a medical examination from two years to five years. In addition, it requires the Coast Guard to notify such members of their right to request such an examination when given a notice of involuntary separation.

Section 7228. Authority for Certain Personnel; Command Sponsorship for Dependents of Members of Coast Guard Assigned to Unalaska, Alaska; Improved Prevention of and Response to Hazing and Bullying.

This section:

- Allows the Coast Guard to hire personnel in certain positions directly;
- Requires the Commandant to grant command sponsorship to Coast Guard dependents assigned to Unalaska, Alaska, upon request of the member; and
- Requires the Coast Guard to cooperate in the establishment of a comprehensive and consistent data-collection system already utilized by the Department of Defense for the collection of reports of incident of hazing or bullying, and seeks to improve training related to hazing and bullying and requires annual reports on its efforts to prevent, respond to, and track these incidents.

Section 7229. Authorization for Maternity Uniform Allowance for Officers.

This section allows for a cash allowance, in an amount to be set in policy, for pregnant officers to purchase maternity and properly sized uniforms.

Section 7230. 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 2115 of title 14, United States Code. This ensures the Coast Guard Reserve has senior officers with proficiency in specific specialized skills.

Section 7231. 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 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 7232. 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, whichever is later.

Section 7233. 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 7234. Recruitment, Relocation, and Retention Incentive Program for Civilian Firefighters Employed by Coast Guard 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 7235. Notification.

This section requires the Commandant to provide the “appropriate committees,” as defined, 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 D—Coast Guard Academy

Section 7241. Modification of Reporting Requirements on Covered Misconduct in Coast Guard Academy; Consideration of Request for Transfer of a Cadet at the Coast Guard Academy who is the Victim of Sexual Assault or Related Offense; Room Reassignment.

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;
- 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; and
- Allows Coast Guard Academy cadets to request room reassignments, consistent with policy.

Section 7242. Modification of Board of Visitors.

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

Section 7243. Coast Guard Academy Cadet Advisory Board.

This section establishes a Cadet Advisory Board to provide guidance to the Superintendent on issues affecting the health and wellbeing; cadet perspective and information related to sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention, response and recovery at the Academy; and any other matter the Board considers important.

Section 7244. Authorization for Use of Coast Guard Academy Facilities and Equipment by Covered Foundations.

This section allows the Coast Guard Academy to allow “covered foundations,” as defined, to use facilities and equipment on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. The section mirrors authorities provided to other military service academies.

Section 7245. Policy on Hazing.

This section gives the Coast Guard parity with the other military service academies and directs the Superintendent of the Academy to issue and make available to the public, written policies defining hazing, preventing hazing, and outlining potential punishment for violations of relevant policies.

Section 7246. 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.

Section 7247. 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 7248. 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 7249. 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 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the behavioral health and wellness support service facilities at the Coast Guard Academy that are currently offered to cadets and officer candidates.

Section 7250. 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 7251. Installation of Behavioral Health and 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 behavioral health, medical, or other health-related services.

Section 7252. 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; establish a primary prevention specialist at the Coast Guard Academy; and establish a policy, consistent with the other military service academies, for a cadet who has reported sexual harassment, to request a leave of absence.

Subtitle E—Reports and Policies

Section 7261. 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 7262. 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 7263. Plan for Joint and Integrated Maritime Operational and Leadership Training for United States Coast Guard and Taiwan Coast Guard Administration.

This section requires the Coast Guard to produce a plan to increase joint and integrated training opportunities for the United States Coast Guard and the Taiwan Coast Guard Administration.

Section 7264. Aids to Navigation.

This section requires:

- Establishment of a process to allow public notice and comment on the discontinuance of Coast Guard aids to navigation;
- A one-time report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the condition of dayboards and the placement of buoys on the Missouri River;
- A one-time report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the condition of dayboards and the placement of buoys within Northeast and Northwest Coast Guard Districts.

Section 7265. 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 7266. 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 7267. 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 7268. Report on and Expansion of Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program.

This section requires the Coast Guard to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Program.

Section 7269. Annual Report on Administration of Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kits.

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

Section 7270. Report on Coast Guard Personnel Skills.

This section requires the Commandant to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate 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 7271. Report on Coast Guard Search and Rescue Operations.

This section requires the Commandant to submit a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate detailing the impact of the Assignment Year

2024 and 2025 Force Alignment Initiative station closures and reductions on sufficiency of Coast Guard Search and Rescue operations.

Section 7272. Report on East Rockaway Inlet Navigation

This section requires the Commandant to submit a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate evaluating hazards to navigation in the East Rockaway Inlet, the effect of those hazards on commercial traffic, a map of current and future aids to navigation in the Inlet, and recommendations on how to address the same and update aids to navigation.

Section 7273. Responsible Property Ownership and Tracking.

This provision requires the Commandant within 30 days of enactment of this bill to provide the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a list of all lighthouses owned or operated by the Lighthouse Service on July 1, 1939 and their present disposition including whether they are owned and operated by the Coast Guard, owned and not operated by the Coast Guard, or if they have been divested and by what process.

Section 7274. Study on Effects of Oceanographic, Weather, and Coastal Conditions on Coast Guard Missions.

This section requires the Commandant, in conjunction with the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, to conduct a study to determine how oceanographic, weather, coastal conditions, and ice coverage affect the ability of the service to conduct its missions and the adequacy of installation preparedness for these conditions. The Commandant is required to submit a report to Congress sharing the findings of the study and recommendations on how to modify curriculum to better educate cadets on these findings.

Section 7275. Parental Leave Surge Staffing Program.

This section directs the Coast Guard to update its policies to the maximum extent possible to provide that Public Health Service officers detailed to the Coast Guard and who are on parental leave be backfilled through the surge staffing program.

Section 7276. Modification of Strategy to Improve Quality of Life at Remote Units.

This section directs the Commandant to develop a detailed written strategy and action plan articulating how to improve the quality of life of Coast Guard personnel serving in remotely located units. This section requires developing a timeline for implementing quality of life improvements and identifies the Commandant as being responsible for overseeing adoption of those measures. This section requires a briefing to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation of the Senate, 30 days following completion of the strategy and annually for three years thereafter.

Section 7277. Retention of Certain Records.

This section establishes requirements for the Coast Guard to retain certain records including all messages posted to its publicly available Coast Guard Message Board website, for at least the longest period allowed by the National Archives and Records Administration. This section also requires the Coast Guard to maintain each Commandant Instruction Manual and Coast Guard Academy Superintendent Instruction Manual for no less than 15 years or the retention period approved by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Section 7278. Temporary Installation of Restroom Facilities for Training Center Cape May Medical Facility.

This section requires the Coast Guard to install temporary restroom facilities for recruits, at the Training Center Cape May medical facility.

Section 7279. Childhood Protection Program

This section requires the Commandant to review existing memoranda of understanding between other branches of the armed forces and entities providing children's advocacy center services and brief the relevant committees on whether the Coast Guard should enter into memoranda of understanding similar to those of the other armed forces for the provision of child advocacy center services.

Title LXXIII — Shipping and Navigation

Subtitle A—Merchant Mariner Credentials

Section 7301. 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;
- Reduces lengths of certain periods of service passed in the FY 24 NDAA (Pub. L. No. 118-31) permanent;
- Clarifies that renewals to existing merchant mariner credentials begin the day after the expiration of the existing credential; and
- Enables American Samoans who meet the definition of a Non-Citizen National to be eligible for merchant mariner credentials.

Section 7302. Nonoperating Individual.

This section extends through 2027 the current moratorium on enforcement 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 7311. Grossly Negligent Operations of a Vessel.

This section defines the elements of a misdemeanor and felony charge of grossly negligent operation of a vessel.

Section 7312. 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 7313. Fishing Safety Training and Research.

This section authorizes \$3 million for fishing vessel safety and another \$3 million for safety training grants for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

Section 7314. 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.

Section 7315. Requirement to Report Sexual Offenses

This section clarifies the requirements within Title 46, United States Code, to report certain offenses.

Section 7316. Requirements for Certain Fishing Vessels and Fish Tender Vessels.

This section outlines process for an owner or operator of certain fishing vessel or fish tender vessels operating shoreward of the boundary line in Southeast Alaska or Prince William Sound to seek a temporary waiver from certain towing vessel requirements.

Section 7317. 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 7318. 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 7321. Ports and Waterways Safety.

This section:

- Authorizes the establishment of safety zone for special activities in the EEZ for seven years;
- Enhances both waterfront safety and the ability to issue regulation relating to anchorage and movement of vessels to prevent damage or destruction from cyber incident, transnational organized crime, or foreign threats;
- Maintains the Coast Guard’s ability, after consultation, to issue safety zones in Saint Lawrence Seaway; and
- Directs the Coast Guard to issue or amend regulations as it relates to vessel traffic services cooperation and vessel traffic management data exchanges within the Saint Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes.

Section 7322. Study on Bering Strait Vessel Traffic Projections and Emergency Response Posture at Ports of the United States.

This section directs the United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System, in conjunction with the Commandant, to conduct a 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 Alaskan 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 7323. 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 7324. Controlled Substance Onboard Vessels.

This section clarifies that under section 70503(a) of title 46, United States Code, it is a prohibited act to knowingly or intentionally take certain actions with respect to controlled substances while on board a covered vessel.

Section 7325. Cyber-Incident Training.

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

Section 7326. 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.

Section 7327. Anchorages.

This section directs the Coast Guard to suspend the establishment of new anchorages in certain areas of the Hudson River.

Subtitle D—Matters Involving Autonomous Systems

Section 7331. 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 generally not be subject to vessel inspection, design, operations, navigation, credentialing, or training requirements, laws or regulations that NOAA determines will harm real-time operational extreme weather oceanographic and atmospheric data collection and predictions.

Section 7332. Coast Guard Training Course.

This section requires the Commandant to develop a training course for a period of three-years, on small uncrewed maritime systems and offer it annually to Coast Guard personnel working with or regulating small uncrewed maritime systems.

Section 7333. 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 7334. 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 up to four.

Section 7335. Uncrewed Systems Capabilities Report.

This section directs the Commandant to report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on its efforts to establish an uncrewed systems capabilities office responsible for acquisition and development of systems and counter-systems.

Section 7336. 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 and Offshore Patrol Cutters.

Section 7337. National Academies of Sciences Report on Uncrewed Systems and Use of Data.

This section directs the Commandant of the Coast Guard seek an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences to prepare an assessment of available uncrewed, autonomous, or remotely-controlled maritime domain awareness technologies for Coast Guard use.

Section 7338. Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

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

Subtitle E—Other Matters

Section 7341. Information on Type Approval Certificates.

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

Section 7342. 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 7343. 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 7344. 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 7345. 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 December 31, 2029.

Section 7346. 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 7347. Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removals.

This section expands the existing prohibition on abandonment to non-barge vessels, requires the Coast Guard to attempt to identify and notify any owner of a vessel that appears to be abandoned of a potential penalty and removal at their expense, and requires the Coast Guard to keep a National inventory of any abandoned non-barge vessels.

Section 7348. Offshore Operations.

This section extends the application of exemptions encompassed in section 3702 of title 46, United States Code, which allowed certain non-tank 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 7349. Port Access Routes.

This section directs the Secretary in the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to issue a regulation for nearshore and offshore shipping safety fairways with minimum widths not less than those proposed in the Coast Guard’s proposed rule titled, “Shipping Safety Fairways Along the Atlantic Coast” (89 Fed. Reg. 3587).

Title LXXIV — Oil Pollution Response

Section 7401. Vessel Response Plans.

This section provides the Coast Guard authority to require periodic inspections of vessels, salvage and firefighting equipment; capabilities to timely and appropriately respond to marine casualties; and the carrying of appropriate response equipment. 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 7402. 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 7403. 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 7404. 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 7405. Investment.

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 7406. 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 7407. International Maritime Oil Spill Response.

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

Title LXXV – Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Response

Subtitle A—Accountability Implementation

Section 7501. 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 7502. 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 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate periodically on its implementation progress.

Subtitle B—Misconduct

Section 7511. Covered Misconduct.

This section defines the term “Covered Misconduct” within title 14 United States Code. The section also requires 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. The provision also addresses requirements regarding reports of sexual assault at the Coast Guard Academy and within the Service.

Section 7512. 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 7513. 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 7514. 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 7515. 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.

Subtitle C—Other Matters

Section 7521. 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 7522. 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 7523. 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 7524. 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 7525. 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 7526. 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 7527. 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 7528. 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 7529. 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 7530. 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.

Title LXXVI—Comptroller General Reports

Section 7601. 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 7602. Comptroller General Study on Vessel Traffic Service Center Employment, Compensation, and Retention

This section requires the Comptroller General to commence a study on the employment compensation, competitiveness, assignment and retention of civilian and military personnel assigned or employed with vessel traffic centers.

Section 7603. 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 7604. 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 7605. 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 issues described in the study.

Section 7606. Comptroller General Study on Facility and Infrastructure Needs of Coast Guard Stations Conducting Border Security Operations.

This section requires the Comptroller General conduct a study and report to Congress on capital needs including personnel capacity, construction and repair; equipment update backlogs; necessary improvements to operational and training equipment; physical security deficiencies and exposed hazards or present of toxic materials, and cost to remediate the same.

Section 7607. 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 7608. 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 7609. Comptroller General Study on Athletic Coaching at Coast Guard Academy.

This section requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study on the needs of the Coast Guard Academy's athletic program, including the number of billets for teaching and coaching necessary to support Coast Guard athletic programs.

Section 7610. 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.

Section 7611. Comptroller General Review of Coast Guard Investigative Service.

This section requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the training, resourcing, and management of the Coast Guard Investigative Service and to provide the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report of their findings.

Title LXXVII — Amendments

Section 7701. Amendments.

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