

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3331

To amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to merchant mariner credential examination working groups, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2025

Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. EZELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to merchant mariner credential examination working groups, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mariner Exam Mod-
5 ernization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXAMINATIONS FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDEN-**
7 **TIALS.**

8 Section 7510 of title 46, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking “EXAM REVIEW” and inserting “WORKING GROUP”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “90 days” and inserting “180 days”;

(ii) by striking “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016” and insert “Mariner Exam Modernization Act”;

(iii) by striking “new questions for inclusion in” and inserting “questions, content, and relevancy of”;

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H), respectively; and

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) at least 2 individuals that have taken and passed the examination in the 5 years before the commissioning of the working group;”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the paragraph heading by striking “BASELINE REVIEW” and inserting “REVIEW”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (I) by striking “Within 1 year”
2 and inserting “Not later than 270
3 days”;

4 (II) by striking “Coast Guard
5 Authorization Act of 2016” and in-
6 serting “Mariner Exam Modernization
7 Act”;

8 (III) by striking “Secretary” and
9 inserting “Commandant”;

10 (IV) by redesignating clauses (i),
11 (ii), (iii), and (iv) as clauses (ii), (iii),
12 (iv), and (vii), respectively;

13 (V) in clause (iv), as so redesign-
14 ated, by striking “; and” and insert-
15 ing a semicolon;

16 (VI) by inserting before clause
17 (ii) the following:

18 “(i) industry standards, practices, and
19 technology to be considered in the Mer-
20 chant Mariner Credentialing Examina-
21 tion;”; and

22 (VII) by inserting after clause
23 (iv) the following:

24 “(v) the relevancy of examination top-
25 ics and contents;

1 “(vi) any redundancy of core com-
2 petencies between the Merchant Mariner
3 Credentialing Examination and Standards
4 of Training, Certification, and
5 Watchingkeeping competencies; and”;

6 (iii) by striking subparagraph (B) and
7 inserting the following:

8 “(B) REPORT TO COMMANDANT.—Upon
9 completion of the review under this paragraph,
10 a report shall be provided to the Commandant
11 which shall include findings of the review with
12 recommendations for updates to the Merchant
13 Marine Credentialling Examination.”;

14 (D) by striking paragraphs (3), (5), and
15 (8);

16 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
17 (9) as paragraphs (5) and (8), respectively; and

18 (F) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
19 following:

20 “(3) MEETING OF WORKING GROUP.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant
22 shall convene the working group annually or at
23 the creation of new examination questions,
24 whichever occurs sooner.

1 “(B) REMOTE PARTICIPATION.—The Com-
2 mandant shall allow any member of the working
3 group to participate remotely if the member of
4 the working group does not have the means to
5 participate in person.

6 “(4) USE OF QUESTIONS.—The Commandant
7 may not use questions developed for use in the Mer-
8 chant Mariner Credentialing Examination until such
9 questions are reviewed and approved by the working
10 group.”;

11 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection
12 (e); and

13 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(d) PLAN.—

16 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 270 days
17 after the completion of the review under paragraph
18 (4) of subsection (c), the Commandant shall develop
19 a plan to update and modernize the Merchant Mar-
20 iner Credentialing Examination and implement the
21 recommendations developed by the review under
22 such paragraph.

23 “(2) CONTENTS.—The plan developed under
24 paragraph (1) shall include—

1 “(A) the elimination or updating of out-
2 dated topics, contents, core competencies, or
3 questions covered by the Merchant Mariner
4 Credentialing Examination;

5 “(B) the modernization of testing proce-
6 dures consistent with contemporary procedures
7 for standardized testing administration and
8 evaluation; and

9 “(C) the development of methods to collect
10 examination data on pass and fail rates for
11 questions and the overall examination for future
12 analysis and comparison uses.

13 “(3) COORDINATION.—In developing the plan
14 under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall develop
15 such plan in consultation with the working group
16 and individuals with expertise in modern best prac-
17 tices for relevant standardized testing.

18 “(4) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 1
19 year after the date of enactment of the Mariner
20 Exam Modernization Act, the Coast Guard shall
21 provide to the Committee on Transportation and In-
22 frastructure of the House of Representatives and the
23 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-

- 1 tation of the Senate a briefing on the review and
- 2 plan developed under this subsection.”.

