

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 143

To allow for improvements to the United States Merchant Marine Academy  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 9, 2015

Mr. WICKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred  
to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To allow for improvements to the United States Merchant  
Marine Academy 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 “United States Mer-  
5 chant Marine Academy Improvements Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. MELVILLE HALL OF UNITED STATES MERCHANT**  
7 **MARINE ACADEMY.**

8 (a) GIFT TO THE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY.—

9 The Maritime Administrator may accept a gift of money  
10 from the Foundation under section 51315 of title 46,

1 United States Code, for the purpose of renovating Melville  
2 Hall on the campus of the United States Merchant Marine  
3 Academy.

4 (b) COVERED GIFTS.—A gift described in this sub-  
5 section is a gift under subsection (a) that the Maritime  
6 Administrator determines exceeds the sum of—

7 (1) the minimum amount that is sufficient to  
8 ensure the renovation of Melville Hall in accordance  
9 with the capital improvement plan of the United  
10 States Merchant Marine Academy that was in effect  
11 on the date of enactment of this Act; and

12 (2) 25 percent of the amount described in para-  
13 graph (1).

14 (c) OPERATION CONTRACTS.—Subject to subsection  
15 (d), in the case that the Maritime Administrator accepts  
16 a gift of money described in subsection (b), the Maritime  
17 Administrator may enter into a contract with the Founda-  
18 tion for the operation of Melville Hall to make available  
19 facilities for, among other possible uses, official academy  
20 functions, third-party catering functions, and industry  
21 events and conferences.

22 (d) CONTRACT TERMS.—The contract described in  
23 subsection (c) shall be for such period and on such terms  
24 as the Maritime Administrator considers appropriate, in-

1 cluding a provision, mutually agreeable to the Maritime  
2 Administrator and the Foundation, that—

3 (1) requires the Foundation—

4 (A) at the expense solely of the Foundation  
5 through the term of the contract to maintain  
6 Melville Hall in a condition that is as good as  
7 or better than the condition Melville Hall was  
8 in on the later of—

9 (i) the date that the renovation of  
10 Melville Hall was completed; or

11 (ii) the date that the Foundation ac-  
12 cepted Melville Hall after it was tendered  
13 to the Foundation by the Maritime Admin-  
14 istrator; and

15 (B) to deposit all proceeds from the oper-  
16 ation of Melville Hall, after expenses necessary  
17 for the operation and maintenance of Melville  
18 Hall, into the account of the Regimental Affairs  
19 Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentality or suc-  
20 cessor entity, to be used solely for the morale  
21 and welfare of the cadets of the United States  
22 Merchant Marine Academy; and

23 (2) prohibits the use of Melville Hall as lodging  
24 or an office by any person for more than 4 days in  
25 any calendar year other than—

1 (A) by the United States; or

2 (B) for the administration and operation of  
3 Melville Hall.

4 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) CONTRACT.—The term “contract” includes  
6 any modification, extension, or renewal of the con-  
7 tract.

8 (2) FOUNDATION.—In this section, the term  
9 “Foundation” means the United States Merchant  
10 Marine Academy Alumni Association and Founda-  
11 tion, Inc.

12 (f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
13 tion may be construed under section 3105 of title 41,  
14 United States Code, as requiring the Maritime Adminis-  
15 trator to award a contract for the operation of Melville  
16 Hall to the Foundation.

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