

Calendar No. 93114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 143****[Report No. 114-51]**

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 9, 2015

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HATCH, and Ms. CANTWELL)
introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

MAY 21, 2015

Reported by Mr. THUNE, without amendment

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”.

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

3 (a) GIFT TO THE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY.—
4 The Maritime Administrator may accept a gift of money
5 from the Foundation under section 51315 of title 46,
6 United States Code, for the purpose of renovating Melville
7 Hall on the campus of the United States Merchant Marine
8 Academy.

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

12 (1) the minimum amount that is sufficient to
13 ensure the renovation of Melville Hall in accordance
14 with the capital improvement plan of the United
15 States Merchant Marine Academy that was in effect
16 on the date of enactment of this Act; and

17 (2) 25 percent of the amount described in para-
18 graph (1).

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

1 (d) CONTRACT TERMS.—The contract described in
2 subsection (c) shall be for such period and on such terms
3 as the Maritime Administrator considers appropriate, in-
4 cluding a provision, mutually agreeable to the Maritime
5 Administrator and the Foundation, that—

6 (1) requires the Foundation—

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

12 (i) the date that the renovation of
13 Melville Hall was completed; or

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

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

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

4 (A) by the United States; or

5 (B) for the administration and operation of
6 Melville Hall.

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) CONTRACT.—The term “contract” includes
9 any modification, extension, or renewal of the con-
10 tract.

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

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

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