

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2635

To enhance the ability of the United States to carry out icebreaking in the polar regions and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2016

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To enhance the ability of the United States to carry out icebreaking in the polar regions 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 “Coast Guard Ice-
5 breaker Recapitalization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
9 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
10 gress” means the following:

1 (A) The Committee on Commerce, Science,
2 and Transportation and the Committee on Ap-
3 propriations of the Senate.

4 (B) The Committee on Transportation and
5 Infrastructure and the Committee on Appro-
6 priations of the House of Representatives.

7 (2) POLAR SEA.—The term “Polar Sea” means
8 the Coast Guard Cutter Polar Sea (WAGB–11).

9 (3) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifi-
10 cally provided, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
11 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard
12 is operating.

13 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY FOR POLAR ICEBREAKER RECON-**
14 **STRUCTION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
16 carry out design and construction activities to extend, for
17 7 to 10 years, the service life of the Polar Sea.

18 (b) AUTHORITY FOR ADVANCE PROCUREMENT.—The
19 Secretary is authorized to enter into one or more contracts
20 for advance procurement associated with the activities de-
21 scribed in subsection (a), including procurement of sys-
22 tems and equipment.

23 (c) INTERAGENCY FINANCING.—The Secretary is au-
24 thorized to participate in interagency financing, including

1 receiving appropriated funds from other agencies or de-
2 partments of the United States, to carry out this section.

3 (d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
5 \$150,000,000 to carry out this section.

6 **SEC. 4. POLAR ICEBREAKER RECAPITALIZATION PLAN.**

7 (a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
9 sultation with the Secretary of the Navy, shall submit to
10 the appropriate committees of Congress, a detailed recap-
11 italization plan to meet the 2013 Department of Homeland
12 Security Mission Need Statement.

13 (b) **CONTENTS.**—The plan required by subsection (a)
14 shall—

15 (1) detail the number of heavy and medium
16 polar icebreakers required to meet Coast Guard stat-
17 utory missions in the polar regions;

18 (2) identify the vessel specifications, capabili-
19 ties, systems, equipment, and other details required
20 for the design of heavy polar icebreakers capable of
21 fulfilling the mission requirements of the Coast
22 Guard and the Navy, and the requirements of other
23 agencies and departments of the United States, as
24 the Secretary determines appropriate;

1 (3) list the specific appropriations required for
2 the acquisition of each icebreaker, for each fiscal
3 year, until the full fleet is recapitalized;

4 (4) describe any polar icebreaking capacity gaps
5 that may arise based on the current fleet and cur-
6 rent procurement outlook; and

7 (5) describe any additional polar icebreaking
8 gaps due to any further delay in procurement sched-
9 ules.

10 **SEC. 5. GAO REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL ICEBREAKER**
11 **FUNDING MODELS.**

12 (a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 6 months after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
14 General of the United States shall submit to the appro-
15 priate committees of Congress a report on international
16 funding models used to sustain the icebreaking fleets of
17 the governments of foreign countries, including
18 icebreaking escort and maritime transportation funding
19 and services in the polar regions or other areas requiring
20 icebreaking activity by a vessel owned by a foreign govern-
21 ment.

22 (b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by subsection
23 (a) shall include—

24 (1) an analysis of how icebreaking activity car-
25 ried out by the governments of foreign countries is

1 used for activities that benefit the private, academic,
2 and transportation sectors;

3 (2) an overview and analysis of the fees used to
4 compensate governments for icebreaking escorts or
5 maintenance of maritime routes;

6 (3) the barriers such fees are currently posing
7 or may pose to commercial activities in the polar re-
8 gions;

9 (4) the effectiveness of such fees in funding
10 construction and maintenance of icebreaking vessels
11 owned and operated by the governments of foreign
12 countries; and

13 (5) policy recommendations for the sustained
14 funding of polar icebreaking vessels owned by the
15 United States Government including potential fund-
16 ing models to fund the Coast Guard icebreaking
17 fleet.

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