

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1845

To provide for pay and allowances for members of the Coast Guard during a funding gap, to provide full funding to address the shoreside facility maintenance and recapitalization backlog of the Coast Guard, and to diversify the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 26, 2021

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 provide for pay and allowances for members of the Coast Guard during a funding gap, to provide full funding to address the shoreside facility maintenance and recapitalization backlog of the Coast Guard, and to diversify the Coast Guard, 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 “Unwavering Support  
5       for our Coast Guard Act” or the “USCG Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) The Coast Guard saves individuals in peril,  
2           thwarts illicit and coercive maritime activities, and  
3           fosters economic prosperity and environmental stew-  
4           ardship.

5           (2) The Coast Guard is at all times a branch  
6           of the Armed Forces of the United States.

7           (3) Additionally, the Coast Guard is a Federal  
8           law enforcement agency, a regulatory body, a first  
9           responder, and a member of the United States intel-  
10          ligence community.

11          (4) With its unique mission set and authorities,  
12          the Coast Guard has a key role in addressing emerg-  
13          ing national priorities in the United States and  
14          across the globe.

15          (5) The Coast Guard is deployed worldwide.  
16          The white-hull diplomacy of the Coast Guard is es-  
17          sential to United States security.

18          (6) Domestically, the Coast Guard keeps the  
19          waterways of the United States open and commerce  
20          moving smoothly by ensuring marine safety and  
21          maintaining aids to navigation.

22          (7) Last year, the Coast Guard responded to  
23          16,845 search and rescue cases and saved 4,286  
24          lives.

1           (8) The Coast Guard has admirably performed  
2           its missions with a fleet of aging vessels, aircraft,  
3           and facilities. The Coast Guard deserves Congress’s  
4           strong and full support for the recapitalization of its  
5           assets.

6   **SEC. 3. PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF**  
7                           **THE COAST GUARD DURING FUNDING GAP.**

8           (a) IN GENERAL.—During a funding gap, the Sec-  
9           retary of the Treasury shall make available to the Sec-  
10          retary of Homeland Security, out of any amounts in the  
11          general fund of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,  
12          such amounts as the Secretary of Homeland Security de-  
13          termines to be necessary to continue to provide, without  
14          interruption, pay and allowances to members of the Coast  
15          Guard, including reserve components thereof, who perform  
16          active service during the funding gap.

17          (b) FUNDING GAP DEFINED.—In this section, the  
18          term “funding gap” means any period after the beginning  
19          of a fiscal year for which interim or full-year appropria-  
20          tions for the personnel accounts of the Coast Guard have  
21          not been enacted.

22   **SEC. 4. FULL FUNDING FOR SHORESIDE FACILITY MAINTENANCE AND RECAPITALIZATION.**  
23

24          (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy  
25          of the United States to provide, on the earliest date prac-

1 ticable, full funding to address the shoreside facility main-  
 2 tenance and recapitalization backlog of the Coast Guard.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
 4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Home-  
 5 land Security to eliminate the shoreside facility mainte-  
 6 nance and recapitalization backlog of the Coast Guard  
 7 \$2,600,000,000 for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

8 **SEC. 5. FLEET MIX ANALYSIS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast  
 10 Guard (referred to in this Act as the “Commandant”)  
 11 shall conduct an updated fleet mix analysis that provides  
 12 for a fleet mix sufficient, as determined by the Com-  
 13 mandant—

14 (1) to carry out—

15 (A) the missions of the Coast Guard; and

16 (B) emerging mission requirements; and

17 (2) to address—

18 (A) national security threats; and

19 (B) the global deployment of the Coast  
 20 Guard to counter great power competitors.

21 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
 22 of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall sub-  
 23 mit to Congress a report on the results of the updated  
 24 fleet mix analysis required by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 6. SHORE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall develop  
3 an updated shore infrastructure investment plan that in-  
4 cludes—

5 (1) the construction of additional facilities to  
6 accommodate the updated fleet mix described in sec-  
7 tion 5(a);

8 (2) improvements necessary to ensure that ex-  
9 isting facilities meet requirements and remain oper-  
10 ational for the lifespan of such fleet mix, including  
11 necessary improvements to information technology  
12 infrastructure;

13 (3) a timeline for the construction and improve-  
14 ment of the facilities described in paragraphs (1)  
15 and (2); and

16 (4) a cost estimate for construction and life-  
17 cycle support of such facilities, including for nec-  
18 essary personnel.

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
20 on which the report under section 5(b) is submitted, the  
21 Commandant shall submit to Congress a report on the  
22 plan required by subsection (a).

23 **SEC. 7. PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM TO DIVERSIFY THE COAST**  
24 **GUARD.**

25 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commandant shall es-  
26 tablish a program for the purpose of increasing the num-

ber of underrepresented minorities in the enlisted ranks  
of the Coast Guard.

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Commandant shall—

(1) seek to enter into 1 or more partnerships  
with eligible entities—

(A) to increase the visibility of Coast  
Guard careers;

(B) to promote curriculum development—

(i) to enable acceptance into the Coast  
Guard; and

(ii) to improve success on relevant  
exams, such as the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery; and

(C) to provide mentoring for students entering and beginning Coast Guard careers; and

(2) enter into a partnership with an existing  
Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps for the purpose of promoting Coast Guard careers.

(c) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “eligible institution” means—

(1) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

1           (2) an institution that provides a level of edu-  
 2           cational attainment that is less than a bachelor's de-  
 3           gree;

4           (3) a part B institution (as defined in section  
 5           322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 6           U.S.C. 1061));

7           (4) a Tribal College or University (as defined in  
 8           section 316(b) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)));

9           (5) a Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in  
 10          section 502 of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a));

11          (6) an Alaska Native-serving institution or a  
 12          Native Hawaiian-serving institution (as defined in  
 13          section 317(b) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)));

14          (7) a Predominantly Black institution (as de-  
 15          fined in section 371(c) of that Act (20 U.S.C.  
 16          1071q(c)));

17          (8) an Asian American and Native American  
 18          Pacific Islander-serving institution (as defined in  
 19          such section); and

20          (9) a Native American-serving nontribal institu-  
 21          tion (as defined in such section).

22 **SEC. 8. COAST GUARD YARD RESILIENCY.**

23          (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
 24          ings:

1           (1) For over a century, Coast Guard vessels  
2       have been built, repaired, and renovated in the Coast  
3       Guard Yard (referred to in this section as the  
4       “Yard”) in Baltimore, Maryland.

5           (2) As 1 of only 5 remaining public shipyards  
6       in the United States, the Yard provides a unique ca-  
7       pability to support the Coast Guard and the national  
8       fleet, including the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
9       pheric Administration, the Navy, the Army, and  
10      other Government agencies.

11          (3) The Yard is an essential component of the  
12      core industrial base and fleet support operations of  
13      the Coast Guard, and its primary mission is to ren-  
14      ovate, maintain, and repair Coast Guard vessels.

15          (4) The Coast Guard is in the midst of recap-  
16      italizing its surface fleet by replacing smaller vessels  
17      with larger, more capable assets. Until recently, the  
18      Yard provided the Coast Guard with the organic ca-  
19      pacity to service every vessel in the Coast Guard  
20      fleet, except polar icebreakers.

21          (5) With the acquisition of the National Secu-  
22      rity Cutter and the projected acquisition of the Off-  
23      shore Patrol Cutter, the Coast Guard will no longer  
24      have the organic capacity to service every vessel in  
25      the Coast Guard fleet.



1       (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Home-  
3 land Security to improve the infrastructure of the Coast  
4 Guard public shipyard \$350,000,000.

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