

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.

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## 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

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## 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.”.

