

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5068

To amend title 14, United States Code, to provide for the nomination and appointment of cadets to the Coast Guard Academy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2026

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

A BILL

To amend title 14, United States Code, to provide for the nomination and appointment of cadets to the Coast Guard Academy.

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 “Service Academy Par-
5 ity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF CADETS TO**
7 **THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1922 of title 14, United
9 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading by striking “**Ap-**
2 **pointments**” and inserting “**Nominations**
3 **and appointments**”;

4 (2) by striking “Appointments” and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Appointments”; and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—An individual may be nomi-
9 nated for a competitive appointment as a cadet at the
10 Coast Guard Academy only if the individual—

11 “(1) is a citizen or national of the United
12 States; and

13 “(2) meets such minimum requirements as the
14 Secretary shall establish.

15 “(c) NOMINATORS.—Nominations for competitive ap-
16 pointments for the positions allocated under subsection (d)
17 may be made as follows:

18 “(1) The Vice President or, if there is no Vice
19 President, the President pro tempore of the Senate,
20 may nominate individuals at large.

21 “(2) A Senator may nominate residents of the
22 State represented by that Senator.

23 “(3) A Member of the House of Representatives
24 may nominate residents of the State in which the

1 congressional district represented by that Member is
2 located.

3 “(4) A Delegate to the House of Representa-
4 tives from the District of Columbia, the Virgin Is-
5 lands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or
6 American Samoa may nominate residents of the ju-
7 risdiction represented by that Delegate.

8 “(5) The Resident Commissioner to the United
9 States from Puerto Rico may nominate residents of
10 Puerto Rico.

11 “(6) The Commandant may nominate enlisted
12 members of the Coast Guard or the Coast Guard
13 Reserve.

14 “(d) ALLOCATION OF POSITIONS.—Subject to the au-
15 thorized strength determined by the Secretary and the nu-
16 merical limitation under section 1921, beginning in the
17 2029 academic year, positions for competitive appoint-
18 ments of cadets at the Coast Guard Academy shall be allo-
19 cated each year as follows:

20 “(1) 3 individuals selected in order of merit, as
21 established by competitive examination, from among
22 the children of members of the Armed Forces who
23 were killed in action or died of, or have a service-
24 connected disability rated at not less than 100 per
25 centum resulting from, wounds or injuries received

1 or diseases contracted in, or preexisting injury or
2 disease aggravated by, active service, the children of
3 members of the Armed Forces who are in missing
4 status (as defined in section 551 of title 37), and the
5 children of civilian Federal employees who are in
6 missing status (as defined in section 5561 of title 5).
7 The determination of the Department of Veterans
8 Affairs as to service connection of the cause of death
9 or disability, and the percentage at which the dis-
10 ability is rated, is binding upon the Secretary.

11 “(2) 1 individual nominated at large by the
12 Vice President or, if there is no Vice President, by
13 the President pro tempore of the Senate.

14 “(3) 230 positions shall be allocated for resi-
15 dents of each State nominated by Members of Con-
16 gress from that State in proportion to representation
17 in Congress from that State.

18 “(4) 1 individual nominated by the Delegate to
19 the House of Representatives from the District of
20 Columbia from among residents of the District of
21 Columbia.

22 “(5) 1 individual nominated by the Delegate to
23 the House of Representatives from the Virgin Is-
24 lands from among residents of the Virgin Islands.

1 “(6) 1 individual nominated by the Delegate to
2 the House of Representatives from Guam from
3 among residents of Guam.

4 “(7) 1 individual nominated by the Delegate to
5 the House of Representatives from the Common-
6 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from among
7 residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern
8 Mariana Islands.

9 “(8) 1 individual nominated by the Delegate to
10 the House of Representatives from American Samoa
11 from among residents American Samoa.

12 “(9) 2 individuals from Puerto Rico nominated
13 by the Resident Commissioner to the United States
14 from Puerto Rico from among residents of Puerto
15 Rico.

16 “(10) 20 individuals nominated by the Com-
17 mandant from among enlisted members of the Coast
18 Guard or the Coast Guard Reserve.

19 “(e) CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION PROCESS.—Be-
20 ginning in the 2029 academic year, the Secretary, in col-
21 laboration with the Commandant, shall initiate the process
22 by which Members of Congress may nominate cadets to
23 the Coast Guard Academy for the subsequent academic
24 year.

25 “(f) COMPETITIVE SYSTEM FOR APPOINTMENT.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 establish a competitive system for selecting indi-
4 viduals nominated under subsection (d) to fill
5 the positions allocated under subsection (d).

6 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The system es-
7 tablished under subparagraph (A) shall be ca-
8 pable of determining the relative merit of each
9 individual based—

10 “(i) on competitive examinations;

11 “(ii) an assessment of the academic
12 background of the individual; and

13 “(iii) any other effective indicator of
14 motivation and probability of successful
15 completion of training at the Coast Guard
16 Academy.

17 “(2) APPOINTMENTS BY JURISDICTION.—The
18 Secretary shall appoint individuals to fill the posi-
19 tions allocated under subsection (d) for each juris-
20 diction in the order of merit of the individuals nomi-
21 nated from that jurisdiction.

22 “(3) REMAINING UNFILLED POSITIONS.—If 1
23 or more positions remain unfilled after the appoint-
24 ments are made under paragraph (2), the Secretary
25 shall appoint individuals to fill the positions in the

1 order of merit of the remaining individuals nomi-
 2 nated from all jurisdictions.

3 “(g) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION IN ADVANCE OF
 4 APPOINTMENTS.—

5 “(1) TIMING.—In the case of a nominee of a
 6 Senator, Representative, or Delegate who is selected
 7 for appointment as a cadet, the applicable Senator,
 8 Representative, or Delegate shall be notified not less
 9 than 48 hours before the official notification or an-
 10 nouncement of the appointment is made.

11 “(2) TRANSPARENCY.—On written request by a
 12 Member of Congress, the Superintendent of the
 13 Coast Guard Academy shall furnish to the Member
 14 of Congress, the name of the nominating authority
 15 responsible for the nomination of any named or
 16 identified individual for appointment to the Coast
 17 Guard Academy.”.

18 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
 19 ter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by
 20 striking the item relating to section 1922 and inserting
 21 the following:

“1922. Nominations and appointments.”.

