Calendar No. 1358

77TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1317

AMENDING THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AND RESERVE ACT OF 1941

MAY 7, 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2490]

The Committee on Naval Affairs to whom was referred the bill (S. 2490), to amend the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Reserve Act of 1941 (Public Law 8, 77th Cong.), as amended by section 10 of the act entitled "An act to amend and clarify certain acts pertaining to the Coast Guard, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1941 (Public Law 166, 77th Cong.), having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments, and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

Amend the bill as follows:

Page 2, line 3, strike out the number "3" and insert in lieu thereof the number "8".

Page 3, line 14, after the word "pay," insert the following: "and without regard to age,".

The general purpose of the bill is to amend the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Reserve Act of 1941 in order to effect certain changes therein which the administration of such act has demonstrated to be necessary. The particular purpose of each amendment will be stated in conjunction with comments on the sections of the bill containing the various amendments.

SECTION 1

This section amends section 8 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Reserve Act of 1941 so as to dispense with the requirement of a board consisting of three commissioned officers of the regular Coast Guard for the determination of responsibility or damage to or loss of equipment, or damage to a motorboat or yacht of the Auxiliary, while it is being operated by the Coast Guard. At present a very large number of such boats are being operated pursuant to title I of the act, and it is contemplated doubling the present number. In

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

view of this program the committee is of the opinion that it would be virtually impossible to adhere to the present requirement that a board of three regular commissioned officers be convened to investigate all small losses and damage without serious detriment to the efficiency of operations of the Coast Guard. The bill will provide for an investigation of a nature consonant with the amount of money involved and similar to that provided for vessels of the Coast Guard. The regulations in contemplation will require surveys and reports of condition of these boats, both upon being taken into service and upon release from service. In other words, the procedure now employed for the handling of Coast Guard vessel damage cases will be adopted for Auxiliary vessels and the interests of the United States, as well as those of the private citizen, will be adequately safeguarded. The regulations will provide, briefly, that repairs of a more or less routine nature which are an incident of operation may be effected on the recommendation of the appropriate local Coast Guard officer; that repairs involving more than $500 cannot be undertaken without authorization by the Commandant; and that where serious damage occurs, the senior Coast Guard officer, if the circumstances in his opinion warrant it, shall convene a board of investigation to ascertain the extent of the damage and to fix responsibility therefor.

SECTION 2

This section amends section 203 of the act so as to place the Coast Guard Reserve on a parity with the Naval Reserve respecting appointments in the Coast Guard Reserve by changing the highest rank in the Coast Guard Reserve from lieutenant commander to captain, but limiting initial appointments to the ranks below that of commander. The Coast Guard contemplates commissioning certain officers in the Coast Guard Reserve in the ranks of captain or commander, but where such ranks are necessary, they will be conferred in specific cases by temporary promotion subsequent to initial appointment. This amendment will also provide recognition for Coast Guard Reserve cadets.

SECTION 3

This section amends section 206 of the act so as to make the same provision relative to pay and allowances for cadets of the Coast Guard Reserve as now exists for midshipmen of the Naval Reserve.

SECTION 4

This section amends section 207 of the act so as to permit the Coast Guard to utilize the services of temporary members of the Reserve on a part-time basis, with or without compensation, free from the present necessity of continuous enrollment and discharge coincident with each use of the temporary reservist's vessel. The amendment would, in many cases, permit enrolling reserve officers of known ability who, under the present restrictions, are unable to accept commissions in the Coast Guard Reserve and whose temporary services in sudden emergencies of a local nature will be invaluable. It also enlarges the field from which reserve officers can be drawn by relaxing restrictions on membership in the Auxiliary, on the use of Auxiliary vessels, and on the crews that may man these vessels.

SECTION 5

This section amends section 210 of the act by the insertion of a provision which would authorize the Commandant to prescribe a lesser uniform allowance to such commissioned and warrant officers of the Reserve as are not required to possess the complete uniform outfit of clothing. The uniform allowance of Reserve officers, who are ordered to active duty in time of war or national emergency, is $250. This is based upon the securing of a complete outfit. However, the plan which contemplates the utilization of a number of temporary officers for special part-time duty without pay, includes the prescribing of a uniform outfit which will not be as costly as the complete outfit of a Regular officer. The amendment, which would also result in a saving to the Government, is desirable in order that there will be no question of the Commandant's authority to make reimbursement (in an amount less than $250) for the reasonable expenses that are incurred by such reservists. In other words, a temporary Reserve officer would be paid an amount which would approximate the cost to him of such uniforms as he might be required to possess. This section of the act is further amended so as to authorize the issuance to cadets of the Reserve of the necessary items of uniform, bedding, and equipment. These articles are now furnished to midshipmen and aviation cadets of the Naval Reserve.

The committee amended the bill to provide that members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary may be enrolled in the Coast Guard Reserve without regard to age. A representative of the Coast Guard informed the committee that a few members of the Auxiliary, over 64 years of age, with special qualifications were desired as active members of the Coast Guard Reserve.

The enactment of the proposed legislation will result in a substantial saving to the Government, the amount of which it is impossible to estimate at this time.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.

○