Public Law 95-298
95th Congress

An Act

To authorize appropriations for the fiscal year 1979 for certain maritime programs of the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

June 26, 1978
[S. 2553]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Maritime Appropriation Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1979".

Maritime Appropriation Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1979.

SEC. 2. Funds are authorized to be appropriated without fiscal year limitation as the appropriation Act may provide for the use of the Department of Commerce, for the fiscal year 1979, as follows:

(1) For acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of vessels and construction-differential subsidy and cost of national defense features incident to the construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning of ships, not to exceed $157,000,000: *Provided*, That no funds authorized by this paragraph may be paid to subsidize the construction of any vessel which will not be offered for enrollment in a Sealift Readiness program approved by the Secretary of Defense: *Provided further*, That in paying the funds authorized by this paragraph, the construction subsidy rate otherwise applicable may be reduced by 5 percent unless the Secretary of Commerce, in his discretion, determines that the vessel to be constructed is part of an existing or future vessel series;

(2) For payment of obligations incurred for operating-differential subsidy, not to exceed $262,800,000: *Provided*, That no funds authorized by this paragraph may be paid for the operation of any vessel which is not offered for participation in a Sealift Readiness program approved by the Secretary of Defense;

(3) For expenses necessary for research and development activities, not to exceed $17,500,000;

(4) For maritime education and training expenses, not to exceed, $24,647,000, including not to exceed $15,523,000 for maritime training at the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, of which $450,000 shall be for the replacement of barracks windows at the Academy, $7,220,000 for financial assistance to State marine schools, and $1,904,000 for supplementary training courses authorized under section 216(c) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936; and

46 USC 1126.

(5) For operating expenses, not to exceed $34,845,000, including not to exceed $5,516,000 for reserve fleet expenses, and $29,329,000 for other operating expenses.

SEC. 3. There are authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year 1979, in addition to the amounts authorized by section 2 of this Act, such additional supplemental amounts for the activities for which appropriations are authorized under section 2 of this Act, as may be necessary for increases in salary, pay, retirement, or other employee benefits authorized by law, and for increased costs for public utilities, food service, and other expenses of the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.

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SEC. 4. Section 3 of the Maritime Academy Act of 1958 (46 U.S.C. 1382) is amended by the addition of a subsection to read as follows:

"(d) The Secretary may pay additional amounts to assist in paying for the cost of fuel oil consumed during training cruises of the vessels referred to in subsection (a).".

SEC. 5. Section 1103(f) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 1273(f)) is amended by striking "$7,000,000,000.", and inserting in lieu thereof "$10,000,000,000.".

Approved June 26, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-1155 accompanying H.R. 10729 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-741 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 124 (1978):

Apr. 24, considered and passed Senate.

May 22, 23, H.R. 10729 considered and passed House; proceedings vacated and S. 2553, amended, passed in lieu.

June 12, Senate concurred in House amendment.