

tion of polar icebreakers and associated equipment using incremental funding.”

§ 88. Saving life and property

(a) In order to render aid to distressed persons, vessels, and aircraft on and under the high seas and on and under the waters over which the United States has jurisdiction and in order to render aid to persons and property imperiled by flood, the Coast Guard may:

(1) perform any and all acts necessary to rescue and aid persons and protect and save property;

(2) take charge of and protect all property saved from marine or aircraft disasters, or floods, at which the Coast Guard is present, until such property is claimed by persons legally authorized to receive it or until otherwise disposed of in accordance with law or applicable regulations, and care for bodies of those who may have perished in such catastrophes;

(3) furnish clothing, food, lodging, medicines, and other necessary supplies and services to persons succored by the Coast Guard; and

(4) destroy or tow into port sunken or floating dangers to navigation.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Coast Guard may render aid to persons and protect and save property at any time and at any place at which Coast Guard facilities and personnel are available and can be effectively utilized.

(2) The Commandant shall make full use of all available and qualified resources, including the Coast Guard Auxiliary and individuals licensed by the Secretary pursuant to section 8904(b) of title 46, United States Code, in rendering aid under this subsection in nonemergency cases.

(c) An individual who knowingly and willfully communicates a false distress message to the Coast Guard or causes the Coast Guard to attempt to save lives and property when no help is needed is—

(1) guilty of a class D felony;

(2) subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000; and

(3) liable for all costs the Coast Guard incurs as a result of the individual's action.

(d) The Secretary shall establish a helicopter rescue swimming program for the purpose of training selected Coast Guard personnel in rescue swimming skills, which may include rescue diver training.

(e) An individual who knowingly and willfully operates a device with the intention of interfering with the broadcast or reception of a radio, microwave, or other signal (including a signal from a global positioning system) transmitted, retransmitted, or augmented by the Coast Guard for the purpose of maritime safety is—

(1) guilty of a class E felony; and

(2) subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 per day for each violation.

(Aug. 4, 1949, ch. 393, 63 Stat. 501; Pub. L. 91-278, §1(3), June 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 304; Pub. L. 100-448, §30(a), Sept. 28, 1988, 102 Stat. 1849; Pub. L. 101-595, title IV, §401, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2989; Pub. L. 104-324, title II, §213(a), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3915; Pub. L. 112-213, title II, §201, Dec. 20,

2012, 126 Stat. 1543; Pub. L. 113-281, title II, §205(a)(4), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3025.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Derived from title 14, U.S.C., 1946 ed., §§29, 53, 55, 60, 61, 62, 63, 104, and title 34, U.S.C., 1946 ed., §471 (R.S. 1536, R.S. 2759; June 18, 1878, ch. 265, §4, 20 Stat. 163; Apr. 19, 1906, ch. 1640, §§1-3, 34 Stat. 123; May 12, 1906, ch. 2454, 34 Stat. 190; June 24, 1914, ch. 124, 38 Stat. 387; Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 417, 39 Stat. 601; Aug. 6, 1947, ch. 502, 61 Stat. 786).

This section broadens existing law in that it authorizes the Coast Guard to engage in saving life and property in the broadest possible terms, without limitation as to place. This section reflects existing sentiment as to Coast Guard functions in relation to saving life and property. There is no intention to supersede or conflict with the present authority of the Civil Aeronautics Board to investigate certain aircraft wrecks. 81st Congress, House Report No. 557.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 113-281 substituted “\$10,000” for “\$5,000”.

2012—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 112-213 added subsec. (e).

1996—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-324 added subsec. (d).

1990—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-595 added subsec. (c).

1988—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-448 designated existing provisions as par. (1), substituted “Subject to paragraph (2), the Coast Guard” for “The Coast Guard”, and added par. (2).

1970—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 91-278 substituted “on and under the high seas and on and under the waters” for “on the high seas and on waters” in introductory text.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM

Pub. L. 107-295, title III, §346, Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2107, which required annual reports on the modernization of the National Distress and Response System, was repealed by Pub. L. 113-188, title X, §1001(d)(1), Nov. 26, 2014, 128 Stat. 2022.

HELICOPTER RESCUE SWIMMING PROGRAM

Pub. L. 98-557, §9, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2862, required Secretary of department in which Coast Guard was operating to use such sums as necessary, from amounts appropriated for operation and maintenance of Coast Guard, to establish helicopter rescue swimming program for purpose of training selected Coast Guard personnel in rescue swimming skills, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-324, title II, §213(b), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3915.

COAST GUARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR TOWING AND SALVAGE OF DISABLED VESSELS FOR MINIMIZATION OF COAST GUARD COMPETITION OR INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE

Pub. L. 97-322, title I, §113, Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1585, as amended by Pub. L. 100-448, §30(b), Sept. 28, 1988, 102 Stat. 1850, provided that: “The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall review Coast Guard policies and procedures for towing and salvage of disabled vessels in order to further minimize the possibility of Coast Guard competition or interference (other than by the Coast Guard Auxiliary) with private towing activities or other commercial enterprise.”

§ 89. Law enforcement

(a) The Coast Guard may make inquiries, examinations, inspections, searches, seizures, and arrests upon the high seas and waters over which the United States has jurisdiction, for the prevention, detection, and suppression of violations of laws of the United States. For such purposes, commissioned, warrant, and petty officers may at any time go on board of any vessel subject to the jurisdiction, or to the operation of any law, of the United States, address inquiries to those on board, examine the ship's documents and papers, and examine, inspect, and search the vessel and use all necessary force to compel compliance. When from such inquiries, examination, inspection, or search it appears that a breach of the laws of the United States rendering a person liable to arrest is being, or has been committed, by any person, such person shall be arrested or, if escaping to shore, shall be immediately pursued and arrested on shore, or other lawful and appropriate action shall be taken; or, if it shall appear that a breach of the laws of the United States has been committed so as to render such vessel, or the merchandise, or any part thereof, on board of, or brought into the United States by, such vessel, liable to forfeiture, or so as to render such vessel liable to a fine or penalty and if necessary to secure such fine or penalty, such vessel or such merchandise, or both, shall be seized.

(b) The officers of the Coast Guard insofar as they are engaged, pursuant to the authority contained in this section, in enforcing any law of the United States shall:

(1) be deemed to be acting as agents of the particular executive department or independent establishment charged with the administration of the particular law; and

(2) be subject to all the rules and regulations promulgated by such department or independent establishment with respect to the enforcement of that law.

(c) The provisions of this section are in addition to any powers conferred by law upon such officers, and not in limitation of any powers conferred by law upon such officers, or any other officers of the United States.

(Aug. 4, 1949, ch. 393, 63 Stat. 502; Aug. 3, 1950, ch. 536, § 1, 64 Stat. 406.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 14, U.S.C., 1946 ed., §§ 45-47, 51, 52, 66, 67, 104, and on title 33, U.S.C., 1946 ed., § 755 (R.S. 2747, 2758, 2760, 2762; June 18, 1878, ch. 265, § 4, 20 Stat. 163; June 16, 1880, ch. 235, 21 Stat. 263; June 22, 1936, ch. 705, §§ 1-3, 49 Stat. 1820; July 11, 1941, ch. 290, § 7, 55 Stat. 585).

The words "or such merchandise" are inserted in the last clause of subsection (a) in order to provide for situations where it may be desirable to seize merchandise without seizing the vessel.

Changes were made in phraseology. 81st Congress, House Report No. 557.

AMENDMENTS

1950—Subsec. (a). Act Aug. 3, 1950, struck out "to" before "examine" in second sentence.

ANNUAL REPORT ON DRUG INTERDICTION

Pub. L. 104-324, title I, § 103, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3905, as amended by Pub. L. 109-241, title IX, § 901(p)(1),

July 11, 2006, 120 Stat. 565, which required annual report to congressional committees on all expenditures related to drug interdiction activities of the Coast Guard, was repealed by Pub. L. 113-281, title II, § 221(a)(3), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3037.

ENHANCED DRUG-INTERDICTION ASSISTANCE

Pub. L. 99-145, title XIV, § 1421, Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 750, required assignment of a member of the Coast Guard to each surface naval vessel at sea in a drug-interdiction area to perform law enforcement functions, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 99-570, title III, § 3053(b)(3), Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3207-76. See section 279 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

§ 90. Arctic maritime transportation

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to ensure safe and secure maritime shipping in the Arctic including the availability of aids to navigation, vessel escorts, spill response capability, and maritime search and rescue in the Arctic.

(b) **INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AGREEMENTS.**—To carry out the purpose of this section, the Secretary is encouraged to enter into negotiations through the International Maritime Organization to conclude and execute agreements to promote coordinated action among the United States, Russia, Canada, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark and other seafaring and Arctic nations to ensure, in the Arctic—

(1) placement and maintenance of aids to navigation;

(2) appropriate marine safety, tug, and salvage capabilities;

(3) oil spill prevention and response capability;

(4) maritime domain awareness, including long-range vessel tracking; and

(5) search and rescue.

(c) **COORDINATION BY COMMITTEE ON THE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.**—The Committee on the Maritime Transportation System established under section 55501 of title 46, United States Code, shall coordinate the establishment of domestic transportation policies in the Arctic necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

(d) **AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.**—The Secretary may, subject to the availability of appropriations, enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, or other agreements with, or make grants to, individuals and governments to carry out the purpose of this section or any agreements established under subsection (b).

(e) **ICEBREAKING.**—The Secretary shall promote safe maritime navigation by means of icebreaking where necessary, feasible, and effective to carry out the purposes of this section.

(f) **ARCTIC DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term "Arctic"¹ has the meaning given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

(Added Pub. L. 113-281, title V, § 501(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3056.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 90, act Aug. 4, 1949, ch. 393, 63 Stat. 502; Pub. L. 85-726, title XIV, § 1404, Aug. 23, 1958, 72 Stat. 808; Pub. L. 94-546, § 1(8), Oct. 18, 1976, 90 Stat. 2519,

¹ So in original.