

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 498

To require vessels entering the United States waters to provide earlier notice of the entry, to clarify the requirements for those vessels and the authority of the Coast Guard over those vessels, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 1999

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

A BILL

To require vessels entering the United States waters to provide earlier notice of the entry, to clarify the requirements for those vessels and the authority of the Coast Guard over those vessels, 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. CLARIFICATION OF COAST GUARD AUTHORITY**
4 **TO CONTROL VESSELS IN TERRITORIAL WA-**
5 **TERS OF THE UNITED STATES.**

6 The Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C.
7 1221 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
8 ing:

1 **“SEC. 15. ENTRY OF VESSELS INTO TERRITORIAL SEA; DI-**
2 **RECTION OF VESSELS BY COAST GUARD.**

3 “(a) NOTIFICATION OF COAST GUARD.—

4 “(1) NOTIFICATION.—Under regulations pre-
5 scribed by the Secretary, a commercial vessel enter-
6 ing the territorial sea of the United States shall no-
7 tify the Secretary not later than 24 hours before
8 that entry.

9 “(2) INFORMATION.—The regulations under
10 paragraph (1) shall specify that the notification shall
11 contain the following information:

12 “(A) The name of the vessel.

13 “(B) The port or place of destination in
14 the United States.

15 “(C) The time of entry into the territorial
16 sea.

17 “(D) With respect to the fuel oil tanks of
18 the vessel—

19 “(i) the capacity of those tanks; and

20 “(ii) the estimated quantity of fuel oil
21 that will be contained in those tanks at the
22 time of entry into the territorial sea.

23 “(E) Any information requested by the
24 Secretary to demonstrate compliance with appli-
25 cable international agreements to which the
26 United States is a party.

1 “(F) If the vessel is carrying dangerous
2 cargo, a description of that cargo.

3 “(G) A description of any hazardous condi-
4 tions on the vessel.

5 “(H) Any other information requested by
6 the Secretary.

7 “(b) DENIAL OF ENTRY.—The Secretary may deny
8 entry of a vessel into the territorial sea of the United
9 States if—

10 “(1) the Secretary has not received notification
11 for the vessel in accordance with subsection (a); or

12 “(2) the vessel is not in compliance with any
13 other applicable law relating to marine safety, secu-
14 rity, or environmental protection.

15 “(c) DIRECTION OF VESSEL.—The Secretary may di-
16 rect the operation of any vessel in the navigable waters
17 of the United States as necessary during hazardous cir-
18 cumstances, including the absence of a pilot required by
19 Federal or State law, weather, casualty, vessel traffic, or
20 the poor condition of the vessel.”.

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