

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3560

To require the use of certain vessels for laying, servicing, and maintaining
Federal submarine cables.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the use of certain vessels for laying, servicing,
and maintaining Federal submarine cables.

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. VESSELS FOR CABLE LAYING.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Only eligible vessels may be used
5 in the course of—

6 (1) laying a Federal submarine cable between
7 two landings in the United States;

8 (2) making a shore landing of a Federal sub-
9 marine cable in the United States;

1 (3) laying or burying a Federal submarine cable
2 on or under the lands beneath the navigable waters
3 of the United States; or

4 (4) servicing or maintaining a Federal sub-
5 marine cable—

6 (A) between two landings in the United
7 States; or

8 (B) on or under the lands beneath the nav-
9 igable waters of the United States.

10 (b) CREW CITIZENSHIP.—Nothing in this section af-
11 fects the authority of the Secretary of Transportation
12 under section 8103(b)(3)(C) of title 46, United States
13 Code, to waive a citizenship requirement for the crew of
14 a vessel on the grounds that qualified seamen who are citi-
15 zens of the United States are not available.

16 (c) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive
18 the application of subsection (a) with respect to a
19 Federal submarine cable if the President determines
20 that—

21 (A) no eligible vessel is available; and

22 (B) the waiver is critical to the national se-
23 curity of the United States.

1 (2) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall imme-
2 diately notify the Congress of any waiver under this
3 subsection and the reasons for the waiver.

4 (d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

5 (1) ELIGIBLE VESSEL.—The term “eligible ves-
6 sel” means a vessel documented under section 12106
7 of title 46, United States Code.

8 (2) FEDERAL SUBMARINE CABLE.—The term
9 “Federal submarine cable” means a submarine cable
10 that is—

11 (A) owned or operated by the United
12 States Government; or

13 (B) operated for the United States Govern-
14 ment under a contract with any Federal agency.

15 (3) NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE UNITED
16 STATES.—The term “navigable waters of the United
17 States” includes all waters of the territorial sea of
18 the United States as described in Presidential Proc-
19 lamation No. 5928 of December 27, 1988.

20 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall become ef-
21 fective on the date that is 180 days after the date of enact-
22 ment of this Act.

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