

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5428

To direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to issue regulations requiring pilots of certain vessels to carry and utilize a portable electronic device equipped for navigational purposes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to issue regulations requiring pilots of certain vessels to carry and utilize a portable electronic device equipped for navigational purposes, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Vessel Navigation and
5 Safety Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR PILOTS TO CARRY AND UTILIZE**
2 **PORTABLE ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL DE-**
3 **VICE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast
5 Guard shall issue regulations that—

6 (1) require that any pilot licensed under sub-
7 title II of title 46, United States Code, while serving
8 under the authority of that license as a pilot on a
9 covered vessel, shall carry and utilize a portable elec-
10 tronic device that is—

11 (A) equipped for navigational purposes;
12 and

13 (B) capable of being connected to an Auto-
14 matic Identification System, in accordance with
15 the International Convention for the Safety of
16 Life at Sea, Chapter V, Regulation 19.2; and

17 (2) require such pilots to obtain training in the
18 use of such electronic devices, and prescribe require-
19 ments for such training.

20 (b) DEADLINES FOR COMPLIANCE.—The regulations
21 shall require such pilots to—

22 (1) carry and utilize electronic devices pursuant
23 to subsection (a)(1) by no later than 18 months
24 after the date of enactment of this Act; and

1 (2) begin training pursuant to subsection (a)(2)
2 by no later than 12 months after the date of the en-
3 actment of this Act.

4 (c) EXEMPTIONS.—The Commandant may exempt a
5 pilot from the requirement under subsection (a)(1) if the
6 Commandant certifies that a portable electronic device is
7 not necessary for the safe navigation of a covered vessel
8 on the waters where the pilot operates.

9 (d) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—In this section the
10 term “covered vessel” means a self-propelled, commercial
11 vessel of 300 gross tons or more.

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