

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3417

To amend title 14, United States Code, to modify the process for congressional nomination of individuals for appointment as cadets at the Coast Guard Academy, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to establish a comprehensive recruitment and outreach plan for the Coast Guard Academy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 14, United States Code, to modify the process for congressional nomination of individuals for appointment as cadets at the Coast Guard Academy, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to establish a comprehensive recruitment and outreach plan for the Coast Guard Academy, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Coast Guard Academy
3 Opportunity Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ACADEMY NOMINATIONS.**

5 (a) APPOINTMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 182 of
6 title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(a) NOMINATIONS.—

9 “(1) CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS.—

10 “(A) APPOINTMENT REQUIREMENT.—Half
11 of each incoming class of the Academy shall be
12 composed of cadets nominated by the following:

13 “(i) The Vice President or, if there is
14 no Vice President, by the President pro
15 tempore of the Senate.

16 “(ii) A Senator.

17 “(iii) A Member of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives.

19 “(iv) The Delegate to Congress from
20 the District of Columbia, the Delegate to
21 Congress from the Virgin Islands, the
22 Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico,
23 the Delegate to Congress from Guam, the
24 Delegate to Congress from American
25 Samoa, or the Delegate to Congress from

1 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
2 iana Islands.

3 “(B) NOMINEES.—Each Senator, Member
4 of the House of Representatives, and Delegate
5 to Congress, including such Resident Commis-
6 sioner, is entitled to nominate 3 persons each
7 year. Cadets who do not graduate on time shall
8 not count against the allocations pursuant to
9 clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).

10 “(2) QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An in-
11 dividual shall be qualified for nomination, selection,
12 and appointment as a cadet at the Academy only if
13 the individual—

14 “(A) is a citizen or national of the United
15 States; and

16 “(B) meets such minimum requirements
17 that the Secretary may establish.

18 “(3) NOMINATION INFORMATION.—The Super-
19 intendent shall furnish to any Member of Congress,
20 upon the written request of such Member, the name
21 of the Member of Congress or other nominating au-
22 thority responsible for the nomination of any named
23 or identified person for appointment to the Acad-
24 emy.”.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
2 section (a)—

3 (1) shall apply beginning with academic pro-
4 gram year 2017, subject to subsection (c), and with
5 respect to each academic program year thereafter;
6 and

7 (2) shall not affect the application of section
8 182 of title 14, United States Code, as in effect be-
9 fore the enactment of this section, with respect to
10 appointment of cadets who will matriculate to the
11 Coast Guard Academy before such academic pro-
12 gram year.

13 (c) TRANSITION.—

14 (1) NOMINATIONS.—Notwithstanding the
15 amendment made by subsection (a), with respect to
16 the nomination of individuals pursuant to section
17 182 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by
18 such subsection, who will matriculate to the Coast
19 Guard Academy in academic program year 2017,
20 not less than 25 percent of the class shall be from
21 nominations made pursuant to clauses (i) through
22 (iv) of subsection (a)(1)(A) of such section 182 (as
23 amended by subsection (a) of this section).

24 (2) ADDITIONAL ACTION.—The Secretary (as
25 that term is used in that section) may take any ad-

1 ditional action the Secretary believes necessary and
2 proper to provide for the transition to the nomina-
3 tion, selection, and appointment process provided
4 under this section.

5 **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.**

6 (a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Subtitle H of title VIII
7 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et
8 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 890B. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR COAST**
10 **GUARD OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT.**

11 “(a) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The
12 Secretary, acting through the Chief Human Capital Offi-
13 cer, shall issue a comprehensive strategy to improve out-
14 reach and recruitment to attract candidates to the Coast
15 Guard Academy.

16 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Commandant of the
17 Coast Guard, or the Commandant’s designee, in consulta-
18 tion with the Chief Human Capital Officer, shall imple-
19 ment the strategy issued under subsection (a).

20 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning in 2017 and an-
21 nually thereafter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard,
22 in consultation with the Chief Human Capital Officer,
23 shall provide a report to the Committees on Homeland Se-
24 curity and Transportation and Infrastructure of the
25 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-

merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that includes—

“(1) general information on implementation of the comprehensive strategy required by this section;

“(2) specific information on Coast Guard outreach and recruitment activities for the preceding year; and

“(3) enrollment information about the incoming class that, to the extent practicable, includes information on age, gender, ethnicity, religion, and State of residence.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subtitle the following:

“Sec. 890B. Comprehensive strategy for Coast Guard outreach and recruitment.”.

(c) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the issuance of the comprehensive strategy required by the amendment made by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Congress on implementation of the comprehensive strategy and the extent to which such activities are effective at reaching a broad population of potentially qualified Academy applicants.

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