

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1464

To require all recreational vessels to have and to post passenger capacity limits and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2015

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

A BILL

To require all recreational vessels to have and to post passenger capacity limits 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 “Boating Capacity
5 Standards Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **PASSENGER.**—The term “passenger” in-
9 cludes any individual aboard a vessel.

1 (2) RECREATIONAL VESSEL.—The term “rec-
2 reational vessel”—

3 (A) means any vessel that is—

4 (i) manufactured or used primarily for
5 pleasure; or

6 (ii) leased, rented, or chartered to a
7 person for the pleasure of that person; and

8 (B) does not include a vessel that—

9 (i) is subject to Coast Guard inspec-
10 tion; and

11 (ii)(I) is engaged in commercial use;

12 or

13 (II) carries paying passengers.

14 **SEC. 3. CAPACITY LIMITS FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of
17 the Coast Guard shall—

18 (1) establish standards for determining the
19 maximum passenger capacity for recreational ves-
20 sels, which shall be expressed in whole number of
21 passengers and in pounds;

22 (2) require each manufacturer of a passenger
23 vessel to post such maximum passenger capacity on
24 the passenger vessel in accordance with subsection

25 (b); and

1 (3) require each operator of a passenger vessel
2 to ensure that—

3 (A) such maximum passenger capacity is
4 posted in accordance with subsection (b); and

5 (B) notice of the need to balance the
6 weight carried by the vessel to avoid capsizing
7 is posted in accordance with subsection (b).

8 (b) ELEMENTS OF DISPLAY.—The maximum pas-
9 senger capacity, maximum carrying capacity in pounds,
10 and notice of the need to balance the carried weight for
11 a passenger vessel—

12 (1) shall be permanently displayed in a legible
13 matter; and

14 (2) shall be located so as to be clearly visible to
15 a passenger boarding the passenger vessel.

16 (c) PENALTIES.—Not later than 180 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of
18 the Coast Guard shall publish regulations that establish
19 appropriate penalties for a manufacturer of a recreational
20 vessel that does not comply with the requirements under
21 this section.

22 (d) APPLICATION.—The requirements under this sec-
23 tion shall apply to any recreational vessel manufactured

- 1 after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enact-
- 2 ment of this Act.

