

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1511

To promote the recycling of vessels in the United States and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 4, 2015

Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To promote the recycling of vessels in the United States 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 TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ships to be Recycled
5 in the States Act” or the “STORIS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON DISPOSITION OF VESSELS NOT**
7 **WORTH PRESERVING.**

8 Section 57102 of title 46, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

1 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of the enactment of the Ships to be
3 Recycled in the States Act and annually thereafter,
4 the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination
5 with the Secretary of the Navy, shall report to the
6 Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on
7 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
8 ate and the Committees on Armed Services, the
9 Committee on Natural Resources, and the Com-
10 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
11 House of Representatives on the vessel disposal pro-
12 gram carried out under this section and on any
13 other disposal of obsolete vessels owned by the Gov-
14 ernment carried out under any other authority.

15 “(2) CONTENT.—Each annual report required
16 by paragraph (1) shall include the total amount of—

17 “(A) appropriated funds expended to carry
18 out the vessel disposal program under this sec-
19 tion and any other disposal of obsolete vessels
20 owned by the Government carried out under
21 any other authority during the previous year;
22 and

23 “(B) the sales accrued and disbursed for
24 such program and disposal.”.

1 **SEC. 3. AUDIT OF VESSEL DISPOSAL PROGRAM.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 270 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
4 General of the United States shall conduct and submit to
5 the appropriate committees of Congress a full audit of all
6 excess Federal Government vessel sales contracts, includ-
7 ing resulting receivables and expenditures, entered into by
8 the Maritime Administration in the period beginning Jan-
9 uary 1, 1994, and ending on the date of the enactment
10 of this Act.

11 (b) CONTENT.—The audit required by subsection (a)
12 shall review—

13 (1) receivables, by contract from award to con-
14 tract close-out; where receivables were held or in-
15 vested; expenditures and distributions, including re-
16 cipients of grants under the National Maritime Her-
17 itage Grants Program since the date of the enact-
18 ment of the National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994
19 (Public Law 103–451); internal safeguards from
20 waste, fraud, and abuse; and the status of any re-
21 maining unexpended funds;

22 (2) agency management of the sales program,
23 including review of safeguards from fraud, waste,
24 and abuse from initial offerings, to submission of
25 bids, and through award to contract close-out and
26 any resulting protest or litigation;

(3) contracts for the sale of excess Federal Government vessels that were awarded to bidders that were not the highest bidders and the financial impact of those awards on recipients of grants under the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program, including the State maritime academies, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and on the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program; and

(4) agreements the Maritime Administration has entered into with the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other government agencies to dispose of excess Government vessels, including whether those agreements and agency policies are consistent with the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for 2009 (Public Law 110–417) and other relevant State and Federal laws.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the following:

(A) The Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

1 (B) The Committee on Armed Services,
 2 the Committee on Natural Resources, and the
 3 Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
 4 ture of the House of Representatives.

5 (2) NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE GRANTS
 6 PROGRAM.—The term “National Maritime Heritage
 7 Grants Program” means the National Maritime
 8 Heritage Grants Program established pursuant to
 9 the National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994 (Public
 10 Law 103–451; superseded by chapter 3087 of title
 11 54, United States Code).

12 (3) STATE MARITIME ACADEMY.—The term
 13 “State maritime academy” has the meaning given
 14 that term in section 51102 of title 46, United States
 15 Code.

16 (4) VESSEL OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND.—
 17 The term “Vessel Operations Revolving Fund”
 18 means the Vessel Operations Revolving Fund estab-
 19 lished under section 50301 of title 46, United States
 20 Code.

21 **SEC. 4. OBSOLETE VESSELS.**

22 (a) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFERS TO NONCITI-
 23 ZENS.—Section 57104 of title 46, United States Code, is
 24 amended by striking subsection (d).

1 (b) SELECTION OF SCRAPPING FACILITIES.—Section
 2 3502 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authoriza-
 3 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Pub-
 4 lic Law 106–398; 54 U.S.C. 308704 note) is amended—

5 (1) by striking subsections (b), (e), and (f);

6 (2) in subsection (c)(2)(A), by striking “para-
 7 graph)” and all that follows through the end and in-
 8 serting “paragraph);”; and

9 (3) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “shall—”
 10 and all that follows through the end and inserting
 11 “shall use full and open competition.”.

12 (c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM SALE AND
 13 SCRAPPING OF OBSOLETE VESSELS.—Subsection
 14 (a)(1)(C) of section 308704 of title 54, United States
 15 Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 “(C) The remainder shall be available to
 17 the Secretary to carry out the Program, as pro-
 18 vided in subsection (b).”.

19 (d) BEST VALUE CRITERIA.—Subsection (c)(1) of
 20 section 308704 of title 54, United States Code, is amend-
 21 ed in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking
 22 “services)” and inserting “services from a pool of pre-
 23 qualified domestic ship recycling companies)”.

1 **SEC. 5. DISMANTLEMENT OF VESSELS.**

2 Section 6(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15
3 U.S.C. 2605(e)) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
5 graph (6); and

6 (2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
9 prohibit the dismantling of a vessel or marine structure
10 for the purpose of recycling materials recovered from the
11 vessel or marine structure. If a person so dismantling a
12 vessel or marine structure finds polychlorinated biphenyls,
13 or suspects polychlorinated biphenyls will be found, during
14 the dismantling, then the person—

15 “(A) shall notify the Administrator; and

16 “(B) shall sample, remove, and dispose of any
17 polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with the rel-
18 evant provisions of this Act, other Federal law, and
19 any guidance of the Administrator applicable to
20 sampling vessels or marine structures for poly-
21 chlorinated biphenyls.”.

22 **SEC. 6. REEFS FOR MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION PRO-**
23 **GRAM.**

24 (a) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF OBSOLETE VES-
25 SELS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Section 3(d) of the Act
26 entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for the fiscal

1 year 1973 for certain maritime programs of the Depart-
 2 ment of Commerce, and for related purposes”, approved
 3 August 22, 1972, (Public Law 92–402; 16 U.S.C.
 4 1220(d)) is amended by striking “States, and any foreign
 5 country,” and inserting “States”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7 of the
 7 Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for the
 8 fiscal year 1973 for certain maritime programs of the De-
 9 partment of Commerce, and for related purposes”, ap-
 10 proved August 22, 1972 (Public Law 92–402; 16 U.S.C.
 11 1220c–1) is amended by striking subsection (d).

12 **SEC. 7. PUBLICATION OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**
 13 **AGREEMENTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 501 of title 46, United
 15 States Code, is amended by adding the following:

16 **“§ 50114. Publication of Maritime Administration ves-**
 17 **sel recycling agreements**

18 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLICATION.—The Ad-
 19 ministrator of the Maritime Administration shall make
 20 available to the public on the website of the Maritime Ad-
 21 ministration the full text of each memorandum of agree-
 22 ment, memorandum of understanding, cooperative agree-
 23 ment, and similar agreement between the Maritime Ad-
 24 ministration and any other agency, department, or person.

1 “(b) TIMING OF PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30
 2 days after the date a document referred to in subsection
 3 (a) is signed by the parties, the Administrator of the Mari-
 4 time Administration shall make such document available
 5 on the website of the Maritime Administration.

6 “(c) INITIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days
 7 after the date of the enactment of the Ships to be Recycled
 8 in the States Act, the Administrator of the Maritime Ad-
 9 ministration shall make available on the website of the
 10 Maritime Administration each document referred to in
 11 subsection (a) that was in effect on the date of the enact-
 12 ment of such Act.”.

13 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of
 14 sections for chapter 501 of title 46, United States Code,
 15 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“50114. Publication of Maritime Administration agreements.”.

