

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2799

To implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2019

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

A BILL

To implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, 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 “Duck Boat Safety
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR AMPHIBIOUS PASSENGER**
7 **VESSELS TO REMAIN AFLOAT AND UPRIGHT**
8 **IN THE EVENT OF FLOODING.**

9 (a) RESERVE BUOYANCY FOR AMPHIBIOUS PAS-
10 SENGER VESSELS THROUGH PASSIVE MEANS.—

1 (1) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than
2 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
3 the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall prescribe
4 in regulations requirements that operators of am-
5 phibious passenger vessels provide reserve buoyancy
6 for such vessels through passive means, including
7 watertight compartmentalization, built-in flotation,
8 or such other means as the Commandant shall speci-
9 fy in the regulations, in order to ensure that such
10 vessels remain afloat and upright in the event of
11 flooding, including when carrying a full complement
12 of passengers and crew.

13 (2) DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE.—The regula-
14 tions required by paragraph (1) shall require compli-
15 ance with the requirements in the regulations by op-
16 erators of amphibious passenger vessels by such
17 date, not later than 24 months after the date of the
18 enactment of this Act, as the Commandant shall
19 specify in the regulations.

20 (b) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS.—Commencing as of
21 the date the regulations required by subsection (a) are
22 prescribed, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall re-
23 quire that operators of amphibious passenger vessels that
24 are not in compliance with the requirements in the regula-
25 tions do the following:

1 (1) Remove the canopies of such vessels for wa-
2 terborne operations, or install in such vehicles a can-
3 opy that does not restrict either horizontal or
4 vertical escape by passengers in the event of flooding
5 or sinking.

6 (2) If the canopy is removed from any such ves-
7 sel pursuant to paragraph (1), require that all pas-
8 sengers don a Coast Guard type-approved personal
9 flotation device before the onset of waterborne oper-
10 ations of such vessel.

11 (3) Reengineer such vessels to permanently
12 close all unnecessary access plugs and to reduce all
13 through-hull penetrations to the minimum number
14 and size necessary for operation.

15 (4) Install in such vessels independently pow-
16 ered electric bilge pumps that are capable of dewater-
17 ing such vessels at the volume of the largest re-
18 maining penetration in order to supplement either
19 an operable Higgins pump or a dewatering pump of
20 equivalent or greater capacity.

21 (5) Install in such vessels not fewer than four
22 independently powered bilge alarms.

23 (6) Inspect any such vessel in water after each
24 time a through-hull penetration of such vessel has
25 been removed or uncovered.

1 (7) Verify the watertight integrity of any such
2 vessel in the water at the outset of each waterborne
3 departure of such vessel.

4 (8) Otherwise comply with any other provisions
5 of Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 1–01
6 in the inspection, configuration, and operation of
7 such vessels.

8 (c) PROHIBITION ON OPERATION OF NONCOMPLIANT
9 VESSELS.—The following amphibious passenger vessels
10 may not operate on United States waterways:

11 (1) Commencing as of the date the regulations
12 required by subsection (a) are prescribed, any am-
13 phibious passenger vessel whose configuration or op-
14 eration does not comply with the requirements in
15 subsection (b).

16 (2) Commencing as of the date specified by the
17 Commandant of the Coast Guard pursuant to sub-
18 section (a)(2), any amphibious passenger vessel
19 whose configuration or operation does not comply
20 with the requirements in the regulations under sub-
21 section (a)(1).

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