

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2536

To exempt large cruise ships from certain requirements applicable to passenger vessels, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2025

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

A BILL

To exempt large cruise ships from certain requirements applicable to 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 “Safeguarding Amer-
5 ican Tourism Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADJUSTING APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PVSA AND**
7 **JONES ACT REQUIREMENTS.**

8 (a) PVSA DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS.—Section
9 55103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by add-
10 ing at the end the following:

1 “(c) NONAPPLICABILITY.—This section shall not
2 apply to any vessel with 800 or more passenger berths.”.

3 (b) JONES ACT REQUIREMENTS.—Chapter 121 of
4 title 46, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in section 12103, by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(d) NONAPPLICABILITY.—The requirements of this
8 section shall not apply to any vessel with 800 or more pas-
9 senger berths and that transports passengers between
10 ports or places in the United States to which the coastwise
11 laws apply, either directly or via a foreign port.”; and

12 (2) in section 12112(a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “except
14 in the case of a vessel described in subpara-
15 graph (C) of paragraph (2),” before “satisfies”;
16 and

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “or” after the semicolon;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by strik-
21 ing “; and” and inserting “; or”; and

22 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(C) has 800 or more passenger berths and
25 transports passengers between ports or places in the

1 United States to which the coastwise laws apply, ei-
 2 ther directly or via a foreign port; and”.

3 (c) ADJUSTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND NAVY RE-
 4 SERVE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 8103(k) of title 46,
 5 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 “(k) NONAPPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN PASSENGER
 7 VESSELS.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to any
 8 vessel with 800 or more passenger berths and that trans-
 9 ports passengers between ports or places in the United
 10 States to which the coastwise laws apply, either directly
 11 or via a foreign port.”.

12 **SEC. 3. ADJUSTMENTS RELATING TO PERMITS FOR ALIEN**
 13 **CREWMEN TO LAND TEMPORARILY IN THE**
 14 **UNITED STATES.**

15 Section 252(a) of the Immigration and Nationality
 16 Act (8 U.S.C. 1282(a)) is amended—

17 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

18 (A) by striking “he may, in his discretion,”
 19 and inserting “the officer may”; and

20 (B) by striking “a period of time, in any
 21 event, not to exceed” and inserting “the period
 22 during which such crewman is in possession of
 23 a valid, unexpired visa issued pursuant to such
 24 paragraph, if such officer is satisfied the crew-
 25 man intends to depart”; and

1 (2) by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(1) on the vessel or aircraft on which such
4 crewman arrived; or

5 “(2) on a vessel or aircraft other than the ves-
6 sel or aircraft on which such crewman arrived.”.

7 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

8 Nothing in the amendments made by this Act shall
9 be construed to exempt a vessel that transports passengers
10 between ports or places in the United States to which the
11 coastwise laws apply, either directly or via a foreign port,
12 from any applicable law of the United States except as
13 explicitly provided in such amendments.

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