

(G) enhance workforce training and recruitment for the maritime workforce, including training on innovative physical and information technologies;

(H) increase the resilience of ports and the marine transportation system;

(I) increase the carriage of government-impelled cargo on United States-documented vessels pursuant to chapter 553 of title 46, section 2631 of title 10, or otherwise; and

(J) maximize the cost effectiveness of Federal funding for carriage of non-defense government impelled cargo for the purposes of maintaining a United States flag fleet for national and economic security.

(c) UPDATE.—Upon the release of a strategy or update under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation shall make such strategy or update publicly available on the website of the Department of Transportation.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than six months after the submission of a strategy or update under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Secretary of Defense, shall make publicly available on an appropriate website an implementation plan for such strategy or update.

(Added Pub. L. 117–263, div. C, title XXXV, § 3542(b)(1), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3096.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR NATIONAL MARITIME STRATEGY

Pub. L. 118–31, div. C, title XXXV, § 3537, Dec. 22, 2023, 137 Stat. 835, provided that:

“(a) BIENNIAL BRIEFING.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not less than twice annually, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration, in consultation with the National Security Council, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees briefings on the status of establishing the type of national maritime strategy required under section 50114 of title 46, United States Code. The Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall participate in each briefing required under this paragraph.

“(2) USE.—The Administrator shall use the briefings required under paragraph (1) to augment and influence the national maritime strategy discussion with national security focused stakeholders across the administration, until an updated strategy is published and endorsed by the President of the United States.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—As the national maritime strategy relates to national security, each briefing under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) Recommendations for a whole-of-Government approach to orchestrating national instruments of power to shape all elements of the maritime enterprise of the United States, domestic and international, on the high seas or domestic waterways.

“(2) An assessment of great power competition in the maritime domain, to include opportunities for increased cooperation with allied and partner global maritime industry leaders to improve national shipbuilding and shipping, while promoting the international rules-based maritime order.

“(3) An analysis of existing shipyards to build and capitalize on the virtuous cycle between commercial and military shipbuilding and repair, including areas of improvement.

“(4) An analysis of opportunities for private or public financing to increase the capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness of United States shipyards, including infrastructure, labor force, technology, and global competitiveness.

“(5) An analysis of potential improvements to national or cooperative arrangements for sealift capacity and shipping, including for contested logistics.

“(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(1) the congressional defense committees [Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives];

“(2) and [sic] the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

“(3) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.”

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF STRATEGY

Pub. L. 117–263, div. C, title XXXV, § 3542(b)(2)(B), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3098, provided that: “The Secretary [of Transportation] shall submit the national maritime strategy required under section 50114(a)(1) of title 46, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), not later than six months after the date on which the Secretary receives the study under subsection (a).”

CHAPTER 503—ADMINISTRATIVE

<p>Sec. 50301. 50302. 50303. 50304. 50305. 50306. 50307. 50308. 50309.</p>	<p>Vessel Operations Revolving Fund. Port development. Operating property and extending term of notes. Sale and transfer of property. Appointment of trustee or receiver and operation of vessels. Requiring testimony and records in investigations. Maritime environmental and technical assistance program. Maritime transportation system emergency relief program. Securing logistics information data of the United States.</p>
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Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2023—Pub. L. 118–31, div. A, title VIII, § 825(b)(2), div. C, title XXXV, § 3514(c), Dec. 22, 2023, 137 Stat. 333, 810, substituted “Maritime transportation system emergency relief program” for “Port development; maritime transportation system emergency relief program” in item 50308 and added item 50309.

2021—Pub. L. 116–283, div. C, title XXXV, § 3505(b), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4405, added item 50308.

2012—Pub. L. 112–213, title IV, § 403(b), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1570, added item 50307.

§ 50301. Vessel Operations Revolving Fund

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is a “Vessel Operations Revolving Fund” for use by the Secretary of Transportation in carrying out duties and powers related to vessel operations, including charter, operation, maintenance, repair, reconditioning, and improvement of merchant vessels under the jurisdiction of the Secretary. The Fund has a working capital of \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Notwithstanding any other law, rates for shipping services provided under the Fund shall be prescribed by the Secretary and the Fund shall be credited with receipts from vessel operations conducted under the Fund. Sections 1(a) and (c), 3(c), and 4

of the Act of March 24, 1943 (50 U.S.C. 4701(a), (c), 4703(c), 4704), apply to those operations and to seamen employed through general agents as employees of the United States Government. Notwithstanding any other law on the employment of persons by the Government, the seamen may be employed in accordance with customary commercial practices in the maritime industry.

(c) **ADVANCEMENTS.**—With the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary may advance amounts the Secretary considers necessary, but not more than 2 percent of vessel operating expenses, from the Fund to the appropriation “Salaries and Expenses” in carrying out duties and powers related to vessel operations, without regard to the limitations on amounts stated in that appropriation.

(d) **TRANSFERS.**—The unexpended balances of working funds or of allocation accounts established after January 1, 1951, for the activities provided for in subsection (a), and receipts received from those activities, may be transferred to the Fund, which shall be available for the purposes of those working funds or allocation accounts.

(e) **LIMITATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts made available to the Secretary for maritime activities by this section or any other law may not be used to pay for a vessel described in paragraph (2) unless the compensation to be paid is computed under section 56303 of this title as that section is interpreted by the Comptroller General.

(2) **APPLICABLE VESSELS.**—Paragraph (1) applies to a vessel—

(A) the title to which is acquired by the Government by requisition or purchase;

(B) the use of which is taken by requisition or agreement; or

(C) lost while insured by the Government.

(3) **NONAPPLICABLE VESSELS.**—Paragraph (1) does not apply to a vessel under a construction-differential subsidy contract.

(f) **AVAILABILITY FOR ADDITIONAL PURPOSES.**—The Fund is available for—

(1) necessary expenses incurred in the protection, preservation, maintenance, acquisition, or use of vessels involved in mortgage foreclosure or forfeiture proceedings instituted by the Government, including payment of prior claims and liens, expenses of sale, or other related charges;

(2) necessary expenses incident to the redelivery and lay-up, in the United States, of vessels chartered as of June 20, 1956, under agreements not calling for their return to the Government;

(3) the activation, repair, and deactivation of merchant vessels chartered for limited emergency purposes during fiscal year 1957 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(4) payment of expenses of custody and maintenance of Government-owned vessels not in the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

(g) **EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS RELATED TO CHARTER OPERATIONS.**—The Fund is available for expenses incurred in activating, repairing, and deactivating merchant vessels chartered under the jurisdiction of the Secretary. Receipts from

charter operations of Government-owned vessels under the jurisdiction of the Secretary shall be credited to the Fund.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1562; Pub. L. 118–31, div. C, title XXXV, §3514(d), Dec. 22, 2023, 137 Stat. 810.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
50301(a)	46 App.:1241a (1st sentence).	June 2, 1951, ch. 121 (pars. under heading “Vessel Operations Revolving Fund”), 65 Stat. 59; Pub. L. 97–31, §12(128), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 165; Pub. L. 108–271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.
50301(b)	46 App.:1241a (2d sentence words before 2d proviso).	
50301(c)	46 App.:1241a (2d sentence 2d proviso).	
50301(d)	46 App.:1241a (2d sentence last proviso).	
50301(e)	46 App.:1241a (last sentence).	
50301(f)	46 App.:1241b.	June 20, 1956, ch. 415, title I, §101 (4th complete par. on p. 319), 70 Stat. 319; Pub. L. 97–31, §12(129), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 165.
50301(g)	46 App.:1241b note. 46 App.:1241c.	Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 846, 70 Stat. 897; Pub. L. 97–31, §12(130), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 165.

In subsection (c), the words “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” are substituted for “Bureau of the Budget” in the Act of June 2, 1951 (ch. 121, 65 Stat. 59), because of sections 101 and 102 of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1970 (5 App. U.S.C.) and 31 U.S.C. ch. 5. The words “for the purposes of that appropriation” are omitted for clarity and for consistency in the subsection.

In subsection (d), the words “notwithstanding any other provisions of law” and “and consolidated with” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (e), in paragraph (1), the words “Comptroller General” are substituted for “Government Accountability Office” for consistency in the revised title. Paragraph (3) is substituted for “(except in cases where section 1212 of this Appendix is applicable)” because section 1212 applies to all vessels under a construction-differential subsidy contract.

In subsection (f), the words “On and after June 20, 1956”, and the last proviso in the 4th complete par. at 70 Stat. 319 (46 App. U.S.C. 1241b note), are omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (g), the words “beginning July 1, 1956” and “after July 1, 1956” are omitted as obsolete.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2023—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 118–31 substituted “(50 U.S.C. 4701(a), (c), 4703(c), 4704)” for “(50 App. U.S.C. 1291(a), (c), 1293(c), 1294)”.

§ 50302. Port development

(a) **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**—With the objective of promoting, encouraging, and developing ports and transportation facilities in connection with water commerce over which the Secretary of Transportation has jurisdiction, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Army, shall—

(1) investigate territorial regions and zones tributary to ports, taking into consideration the economies of transportation by rail,