

Subsec. (c)(3) to (6). Pub. L. 117–263, § 3532(a)(3)(B), added pars. (3) to (6).

2021—Pub. L. 116–283 renumbered section 54102 of this title as this section.

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### GUIDELINES

Pub. L. 117–263, div. C, title XXXV, § 3532(c), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3092, provided that:

“Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 2022], the Secretary of Transportation shall—

“(1) prescribe guidelines for the submission of grant proposals under section 51706(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a); and

“(2) publish and maintain such guidelines on the website of the Department of Transportation.”

### § 51707. Merchant mariner recruitment, training, and retention strategic plan

(a)<sup>1</sup> STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and at least once every five years thereafter until the termination date under paragraph (6), the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Maritime Administration, shall publish in the Federal Register a plan to recruit, train, and retain merchant mariners for the five-year period following the date of publication of the most recently published plan under this paragraph.

(2) CONTENTS.—A plan published under paragraph (1) shall contain—

(A) a strategy to address merchant mariner recruitment, training, and retention issues in the United States; and

(B) demonstration and research priorities concerning merchant mariner recruitment, training, and retention.

(3) FACTORS.—In developing a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into account, at a minimum—

(A) the availability of existing research (as of the date of publication of the plan); and

(B) the need to ensure results that have broad applicability for the United States merchant marine workforce development.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In developing a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with representatives of the maritime industry, labor organizations, including the Commander of the Transportation Command and the Commander of the Military Sealift Command, and other governmental entities and stakeholders in the maritime industry.

(5) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall transmit copies of any plan published under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(6) TERMINATION DATE.—The requirement to publish a plan under this paragraph shall terminate on the date that the Administrator of the Maritime Administration determines that there is an adequate number of United States mariners for sustained strategic sealift.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. No subsec. (b) has been enacted.

(Added Pub. L. 116–283, div. C, title XXXV, § 3508(a), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4405.)

### Editorial Notes

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 116–283, which was approved Jan. 1, 2021.

### CHAPTER 519—MERCHANT MARINE AWARDS

Sec.

51901. Awards for individual acts or service.

51902. Gallant Ship Award.

51903. Multiple awards.

51904. Presentation to representatives.

51905. Flags and grave markers.

51906. Special certificates for civilian service to armed forces.

51907. Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements<sup>1</sup>

51908. Prohibition against unauthorized manufacture, sale, possession, or display of awards.

### Editorial Notes

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110–181, div. C, title XXXV, § 3523(a)(5)(B), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 599, substituted “Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements” for “Manufacture and sale of awards and replacements.” in item 51907.

### § 51901. Awards for individual acts or service

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Transportation may award decorations and medals of appropriate design (including ribbons, ribbon bars, emblems, rosettes, miniature facsimiles, plaques, citations, or other suitable devices or insignia) for individual acts or service in the merchant marine of the United States. The design may be similar to the design of a decoration or medal authorized for members of the armed forces for similar acts or service.

(b) SPECIFIC AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award—

(1) a Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal to an individual for outstanding acts, conduct, or valor beyond the line of duty;

(2) a Merchant Marine Meritorious Service Medal to an individual for meritorious acts, conduct, or valor in the line of duty, but not of the outstanding character that would warrant the award of the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal;

(3) a decoration or medal to an individual for service during a war, national emergency proclaimed by the President or Congress, or operations by the armed forces outside the continental United States under conditions of danger to life and property; and

(4) a decoration or medal to an individual for other acts or service of conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity, and extraordinary heroism under conditions of danger to life and property that would warrant a similar decoration or medal for a member of the armed forces.

(Pub. L. 109–304, § 8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1584.)

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be followed by a period.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51901(a) .....	46 App.:2001.	Pub. L. 100-324, §§2, 3, 5(d), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 576, 577.
51901(b) .....	46 App.:2004(d). 46 App.:2002.	

**§ 51902. Gallant Ship Award**

(a) AWARDS TO VESSELS.—The Secretary of Transportation may award a Gallant Ship Award and a citation to a vessel (including a foreign vessel) participating in outstanding or gallant action in a marine disaster or other emergency to save life or property at sea. The Secretary may award a plaque to the vessel, and a replica of the plaque may be preserved as a permanent historical record.

(b) AWARDS TO CREWS.—The Secretary of Transportation may award an appropriate citation ribbon bar to the master and each individual serving, at the time of the action, on a vessel issued an award under subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Secretary of State before awarding an award or citation to a foreign vessel or its crew under this section.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1584.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51902 .....	46 App.:2003.	Pub. L. 100-324, §4, May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 576.

In subsection (a), the words “a vessel (including a foreign vessel)” are substituted for “a United States vessel or to a foreign-flag vessel” to eliminate unnecessary words.

**§ 51903. Multiple awards**

An individual may not be awarded more than one of any type of decoration or medal under this chapter. For each succeeding act or service justifying the same decoration or medal, a suitable device may be awarded to be worn with the decoration or medal.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51903 .....	46 App.:2004(a).	Pub. L. 100-324, §5(a), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 576.

**§ 51904. Presentation to representatives**

If an individual to be issued an award under this chapter is unable to accept the award personally, the Secretary of Transportation may present the award to an appropriate representative.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51904 .....	46 App.:2004(b).	Pub. L. 100-324, §5(b), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 577.

**§ 51905. Flags and grave markers**

Except as authorized under another law, the Secretary of Transportation may issue, at no cost, a flag of the United States and a grave marker to the family or personal representative of a deceased individual who served in the merchant marine of the United States in support of the armed forces of the United States or its allies during a war or national emergency.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51905 .....	46 App.:2005.	Pub. L. 100-324, §6, May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 577.

**§ 51906. Special certificates for civilian service to armed forces**

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Maritime Administrator may issue a special certificate to an individual, or the personal representative of an individual, in recognition of service of that individual in the merchant marine of the United States, if the service has been determined to be active duty under section 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note).

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Issuance of a certificate under subsection (a) does not entitle an individual to any rights, privileges, or benefits under a law of the United States.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51906 .....	46 App.:2006.	Pub. L. 100-324, §7, May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 577.

**§ 51907. Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements**

The Secretary of Transportation may provide—

(1) the decorations and medals authorized by this chapter and replacements for those decorations and medals; and

(2) replacements for decorations and medals issued under a prior law.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585; Pub. L. 109-163, div. C, title XXXV, §3510, Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3557; Pub. L. 110-181, div. C, title XXXV, §3523(a)(5)(A), (b), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 599, 600.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51907 .....	46 App.:2004(c).	Pub. L. 100-324, §5(c), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 577.

The Secretary’s authority to provide decorations and medals at cost, or to authorize the sale of decorations and medals at reasonable prices, is restated to apply only to replacement awards because Congress probably did not intend that recipients being honored would pay for their decorations and medals.