

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To establish a Secretary of the Coast Guard, 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 “Coast Guard Improve-  
5 ment Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.**

7       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

8               (1) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—The  
9 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et  
10 seq.) is amended—

1 (A) in section 103 (6 U.S.C. 113)—  
2 (i) by redesignating subsections (e)  
3 through (g) as subsections (d) through (h),  
4 respectively;  
5 (ii) by inserting after subsection (b)  
6 the following:

7 “(c) SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is a Secretary of the  
9 Coast Guard, appointed by the President, by and  
10 with the advice and consent of the Senate.

11 “(2) GENERAL POWERS.—Subject to the au-  
12 thority, direction, and control of the Secretary, when  
13 the Coast Guard is operating as a service in the De-  
14 partment, the Secretary of the Coast Guard shall ex-  
15 ercise the powers of the Secretary under section  
16 501(a) of title 14, United States Code, and other  
17 duties as may be prescribed by law or by the Presi-  
18 dent or the Secretary, in directing the Coast Guard.

19 “(3) DIRECT REPORTING TO SECRETARY.—At  
20 all times, the Secretary of the Coast Guard shall re-  
21 port directly to the Secretary without intervening  
22 authority.

23 “(4) CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF THE  
24 NAVY.—When the Coast Guard is operating as a  
25 service in the Navy, the Secretary of the Coast

1 Guard may advise the Secretary of the Navy on  
2 matters relating to the Coast Guard.

3 “(5) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT.—No offi-  
4 cer serving in an appointment under subsection (a)  
5 may be appointed to carry out the duties of Sec-  
6 retary of the Coast Guard.”; and

7 (iii) by amending subsection (d), as  
8 redesignated, to read as follows:

9 “(d) COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD.—To as-  
10 sist the Secretary of the Coast Guard in the performance  
11 of the functions of the Secretary of the Coast Guard, there  
12 is a Commandant of the Coast Guard, who shall be ap-  
13 pointed as provided in section 302 of title 14, United  
14 States Code, and who shall report directly to the Secretary  
15 of the Coast Guard. In addition to such duties as may  
16 be provided in this Act and as assigned to the Com-  
17 mandant by the Secretary of the Coast Guard, the duties  
18 of the Commandant shall include those required by section  
19 102 of title 14, United States Code.”; and

20 (B) in section 888(f) (6 U.S.C. 468(f))—

21 (i) by striking “Upon the transfer”  
22 and inserting the following:

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the transfer”;

24 (ii) in paragraph (1), as so des-  
25 ignated, by striking “the Secretary” and

1           inserting “the Secretary of the Coast  
2           Guard”; and

3                   (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(2) EXCEPTION.—When the Coast Guard is  
6           operating as a service in the Navy, the Commandant  
7           shall report directly to the Secretary of the Navy.”.

8           (2) TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 10  
9           of the United States Code, is amended—

10                   (A) in section 101(a)(9)(D), by striking  
11           “the Secretary of Homeland Security” and in-  
12           serting “the Secretary of the Coast Guard”;  
13           and

14                   (B) in section 8013a—

15                           (i) by striking “section 3 of title 14”  
16                           and inserting “section 103 of title 14”;  
17                           and

18                           (ii) by striking “the Secretary of  
19                           Homeland Security” and inserting “the  
20                           Secretary of the Coast Guard”.

21           (3) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 14  
22           of the United States Code, is amended—

23                   (A) in section 501—

24                           (i) by redesignating subsections (a)  
25                           through (h) as paragraphs (1) through (8),

1                   respectively, and moving such paragraphs  
2                   two ems to the right;

3                   (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph  
4                   (1), as redesignated, by striking “For” and  
5                   inserting the following:

6                   “(a) IN GENERAL.—For”; and

7                   (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
8                   lowing:

9                   “(b) SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.—

10                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is a Secretary of the  
11                  Coast Guard, appointed from civilian life by the  
12                  President, by and with the advice and consent of the  
13                  Senate. The Secretary of the Coast Guard shall, to  
14                  the greatest extent practicable, be appointed from  
15                  among individuals most highly qualified for the posi-  
16                  tion by reason of background and experience, includ-  
17                  ing individuals with appropriate management or  
18                  leadership experience. The Secretary of the Coast  
19                  Guard is the head of the Coast Guard.

20                  “(2) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT.—An indi-  
21                  vidual may not be appointed as the Secretary of the  
22                  Coast Guard during the 5-year period beginning on  
23                  the date on which the individual is relieved from ac-  
24                  tive duty (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10)  
25                  as a commissioned officer of a regular component of

1 any of the armed forces (as defined in section  
2 101(a) of title 10).

3 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the author-  
5 ity, direction, and control of the Secretary of  
6 Homeland Security and subject to the other  
7 provisions of this title, Secretary of the Coast  
8 Guard is responsible for, and has the authority  
9 necessary to conduct, all affairs of the Coast  
10 Guard, including the following functions:

11 “(i) Recruiting.

12 “(ii) Organizing.

13 “(iii) Supplying.

14 “(iv) Equipping, including research  
15 and development.

16 “(v) Training.

17 “(vi) Servicing.

18 “(vii) Mobilizing.

19 “(viii) Demobilizing.

20 “(ix) Administering, including the mo-  
21 rale and welfare of personnel.

22 “(x) Maintaining.

23 “(xi) The construction, outfitting, and  
24 repair of military equipment.

1           “(xii) The construction, maintenance,  
2           and repair of buildings, structures, and  
3           utilities and the acquisition of real prop-  
4           erty and interests in real property nec-  
5           essary to carry out the responsibilities  
6           specified in this section.

7           “(B) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—  
8           Subject to the authority, direction, and control  
9           of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Sec-  
10          retary of the Coast Guard is also responsible to  
11          the Secretary of Homeland Security for—

12                 “(i) the functioning and efficiency of  
13                 the Coast Guard;

14                 “(ii) the formulation of policies and  
15                 programs of the Coast Guard that are fully  
16                 consistent with national security objectives  
17                 and policies established by the President or  
18                 the Secretary of Homeland Security;

19                 “(iii) the effective and timely imple-  
20                 mentation of policy, program, and budget  
21                 decisions and instructions of the President  
22                 or the Secretary of Homeland Security re-  
23                 lating to the functions of the Coast Guard;  
24                 and

1           “(iv) carrying out the functions of the  
2           Coast Guard so as to fulfill the current  
3           and future operational requirements;

4           “(v) effective cooperation and coordi-  
5           nation between the Coast Guard and the  
6           other military departments (as defined in  
7           section 101(a) of title 10) and agencies of  
8           the Department of Defense and the De-  
9           partment of Homeland Security to provide  
10          for more effective, efficient, and economical  
11          administration and to eliminate duplica-  
12          tion;

13          “(vi) the presentation and justification  
14          of the positions of the Coast Guard on the  
15          plans, programs, and policies of the De-  
16          partment of Homeland Security; and

17          “(vii) the effective supervision and  
18          control of the intelligence activities of the  
19          Coast Guard.

20          “(C) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Sec-  
21          retary of the Coast Guard is also responsible  
22          for such other activities as may be prescribed  
23          by law or by the President or Secretary of  
24          Homeland Security



1           “(4) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—After  
2 first informing the Secretary of Homeland Security,  
3 the Secretary of the Coast Guard may make such  
4 recommendations to Congress relating to the De-  
5 partment of Homeland Security as the Secretary of  
6 the Coast Guard considers appropriate.

7           “(5) DELEGATION.—The Secretary of the Coast  
8 Guard may assign the functions, powers, and duties  
9 of the Secretary of the Coast Guard, as the Sec-  
10 retary of the Coast Guard considers appropriate, to  
11 any Under Secretary or Assistant Secretary that has  
12 been established and has the advice and consent of  
13 the Senate.

14           “(6) ADDITIONAL POWERS.—The Secretary of  
15 the Coast Guard may—

16           “(A) assign, detail, and prescribe the du-  
17 ties of members of the Coast Guard and civilian  
18 personnel of the Coast Guard;

19           “(B) change the title of any officer or ac-  
20 tivity of the Coast Guard not prescribed by law;  
21 and

22           “(C) prescribe regulations to carry out his  
23 functions, powers, and duties under this title.”;  
24 and

1 (B) by amending section 505 to read as  
2 follows:

3 **“§ 505. Functions and powers vested in the Com-**  
4 **mandant**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The function of the Com-  
6 mandant is to assist the Secretary of the Coast Guard in  
7 carrying out the responsibilities of the Coast Guard. Ex-  
8 cept as otherwise specifically prescribed by law, the Com-  
9 mandant shall perform such duties and have such titles,  
10 as the Secretary of the department in which the Coast  
11 Guard is operating may prescribe.

12 “(b) DUTIES.—Under the authority, direction, and  
13 control of the Secretary of the Coast Guard, the Com-  
14 mandant shall—

15 “(1) prepare for such employment of the Coast  
16 Guard, and for such recruiting, organizing, sup-  
17 plying, equipping (including aspects of research and  
18 development assigned by the Secretary of the Coast  
19 Guard), training, servicing, mobilizing, demobilizing,  
20 administering, and maintaining of the Coast Guard,  
21 as will assist in the execution of any power, duty, or  
22 function of the Secretary of the department in which  
23 the Coast Guard is operating;

24 “(2) investigate and report upon the efficiency  
25 of the Coast Guard and its preparation to support

1 all operations pursuant to the department in which  
2 the Coast Guard is operating;

3 “(3) prepare detailed instructions for the execu-  
4 tion of approved plans and supervise the execution  
5 of such plans and instructions;

6 “(4) as directed by the Secretary of the Coast  
7 Guard, coordinate the action of organizations of the  
8 Coast Guard; and

9 “(5) perform such other duties, not otherwise  
10 assigned by law, as may be prescribed by the Sec-  
11 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard  
12 is operating.”.

13 (4) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
14 1137(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended  
15 by striking “section 501(d)” and inserting “section  
16 501(a)(4)”.

17 (b) REORGANIZATION PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after  
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
20 of Homeland Security shall submit to the appro-  
21 priate committees of Congress a reorganization plan  
22 with respect to—

23 (A) the number of military and civilian  
24 personnel of the Coast Guard to be assigned to  
25 the Office of the Secretary of the Coast Guard

1           pursuant to subsection (c) of section 103 of the  
2           Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113);  
3           and

4                   (B) any reorganization of the Department  
5           of Homeland Security necessary as a result of  
6           the establishment of the Secretary of the Coast  
7           Guard under subsection (c) of section 103 of  
8           the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.  
9           113), consistent with sections 101(b) and 888  
10          of that Act (6 U.S.C. 111(b), 468).

11          (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by para-  
12          graph (1) shall include following:

13                   (A) Recommendations with respect to leg-  
14           islative changes necessary to transfer respon-  
15           sibilities from the Commandant to the Sec-  
16           retary of the Coast Guard, including with re-  
17           spect to such responsibilities under—

18                           (i) title 10 of the United States Code;

19                           (ii) title 14 of the United States Code;

20                   and

21                           (iii) any law relating to navigation or  
22           navigable waters applicable to the Coast  
23           Guard.

24                   (B) Specification of the steps to be taken  
25          by the Secretary of Homeland Security—

1 (i) to transfer responsibilities from the  
2 Secretary of Homeland Security or the  
3 Commandant of the Coast Guard to the  
4 Secretary of the Coast Guard; and

5 (ii) to organize the Office of the Sec-  
6 retary of the Coast Guard, including the  
7 delegation or assignment of functions to  
8 the Secretary of the Coast Guard, so as to  
9 allow the Secretary of the Coast Guard to  
10 carry out the responsibilities identified  
11 under clause (i).

12 (C) Specification of any proposed dispo-  
13 sition of property, facility, contract, record, or  
14 other asset or obligation to be transferred  
15 under the plan.

16 (D) Specification of the funds available  
17 that will be transferred to the Office of the Sec-  
18 retary of the Coast Guard as a result of trans-  
19 fers under the plan.

20 (E) A date on which the plan shall become  
21 effective.

22 (F) Any other element the Secretary of  
23 Homeland Security considers appropriate.

24 (3) CONSIDERATION.—The plan required by  
25 paragraph (1) shall take into consideration the role

1 of the Secretary of the Coast Guard when the Coast  
2 Guard is operating as a service in the Navy.

3 (4) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary of Home-  
4 land Security, in consultation with the appropriate  
5 committees of Congress, may modify or revise any  
6 part of the plan required by this subsection until the  
7 date on which the plan becomes effective in accord-  
8 ance with date set forth under paragraph (2)(E).

9 (5) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS  
10 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-  
11 priate committees of Congress” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
13 and Transportation, the Committee on Home-  
14 land Security and Governmental Affairs, and  
15 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;  
16 and

17 (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
18 Infrastructure, the Committee on Homeland Se-  
19 curity, and the Committee on Appropriations of  
20 the House of Representatives.