

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 509

To amend title 14, United States Code, to ensure that the Commandant of the Coast Guard responds to safety recommendations by the National Transportation Safety Board.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. BROWNLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 14, United States Code, to ensure that the Commandant of the Coast Guard responds to safety recommendations by the National Transportation Safety Board.

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 Safety
5 and Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD'S RESPONSES**
2 **TO SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 14.—Chapter 7 of title
4 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 719. RESPONSES TO SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—When the National Transpor-
8 tation Safety Board submits a recommendation about
9 transportation safety to the Commandant of the Coast
10 Guard, the Commandant, not later than 90 days after re-
11 ceiving the recommendation, shall give the Board a formal
12 written response to each recommendation. The response
13 shall indicate whether the Commandant intends—

14 “(1) to carry out procedures to adopt the com-
15 plete recommendation;

16 “(2) to carry out procedures to adopt a part of
17 the recommendation; or

18 “(3) to refuse to carry out procedures to adopt
19 the recommendation.

20 “(b) TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETING PROCEDURES
21 AND REASONS FOR REFUSAL.—A response under para-
22 graphs (1) or (2) of subsection (a) shall include a copy
23 of a proposed timetable for completing the procedures. A
24 response under subsection (a)(2) shall detail the reasons
25 for the refusal to carry out procedures on the remainder
26 of the recommendation. A response under subsection

1 (a)(3) shall detail the reasons for the refusal to carry out
2 procedures.

3 “(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Board shall make
4 a copy of each recommendation and response available to
5 the public at reasonable cost.

6 “(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

7 “(1) ANNUAL REGULATORY STATUS RE-
8 PORTS.—On February 1 of each year, the Com-
9 mandant shall submit a report to Congress and the
10 Board containing the regulatory status of each rec-
11 ommendation made by the Board to the Com-
12 mandant that is on the Board’s ‘most wanted list’.
13 The Commandant shall continue to report on the
14 regulatory status of each such recommendation in
15 the report due on February 1 of subsequent years
16 until final regulatory action is taken on that rec-
17 ommendation or the Commandant determines and
18 states in such a report that no action should be
19 taken.

20 “(2) FAILURE TO REPORT.—If on March 1 of
21 each year the Board has not received the Com-
22 mandant’s report required by this subsection, the
23 Board shall notify the Committee on Transportation
24 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
25 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

1 Transportation of the Senate of the Commandant's
2 failure to submit the required report.

3 “(3) COMPLIANCE REPORT WITH REC-
4 OMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
5 date on which the Commandant submits a report
6 under this subsection, the Board shall review the
7 Commandant's report and transmit comments on
8 the report to the Commandant, the Committee on
9 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
10 ate, and the Committee on Transportation and In-
11 frastructure of the House of Representatives.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
13 ter 7 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by insert-
14 ing after the item relating to section 718 the following:

“719. Responses to safety recommendations.”.

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