

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1646

To repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 13, 2021

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

A BILL

To repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade, 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 “Open America’s
5 Waters Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON COASTWISE**

7 **TRADE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12112(a) of title 46,
9 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A coastwise endorsement may be
2 issued for a vessel that qualifies under the laws of the
3 United States to engage in the coastwise trade.”.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of
6 the United States Coast Guard shall issue regulations to
7 implement the amendment made by subsection (a) that
8 require all vessels permitted to engage in the coastwise
9 trade to meet all appropriate safety and security require-
10 ments.

11 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

12 (1) TANK VESSEL CONSTRUCTION STAND-
13 ARDS.—Section 3703a(c)(1)(C) of title 46, United
14 States Code, is amended by striking “and is quali-
15 fied for documentation as a wrecked vessel under
16 section 12112 of this title”.

17 (2) LIQUIFIED GAS TANKERS.—Section 12120
18 of such title is amended by striking “, if the
19 vessel—” and all that follows and inserting a period.

20 (3) SMALL PASSENGER VESSELS.—Section
21 12121(b) of such title is amended by striking
22 “12112,”.

23 (4) LOSS OF COASTWISE TRADE PRIVILEGES.—
24 Section 12132 of such title is repealed.

1 (5) OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSELS.—Section
2 12117(b) of such title is amended by striking “sec-
3 tions 12103, 12132, and 50501” and inserting “sec-
4 tions 12103 and 50501”.

5 (6) OPTIONAL REGULATORY MEASUREMENT.—
6 Section 14305(a)(6) of such title is amended by
7 striking “sections 12118 and 12132” and inserting
8 “section 12118”.

9 (7) COURT SALES OF UNDOCUMENTED VES-
10 SELS.—Section 31329(b) of such title is amended—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “;” and
12 inserting “; and”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and”
14 and inserting a period; and

15 (C) by striking paragraph (3).

16 (8) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
17 tions for chapter 121 of title 46, United States
18 Code, is amended by striking the item relating to
19 section 12132.

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