

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4540

To enable passenger vessels that were not built in the United States to receive coastwise endorsement, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2024

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

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## A BILL

To enable passenger vessels that were not built in the United States to receive coastwise endorsement, 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 “Protecting Jobs in  
5 American Ports Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COASTWISE ENDORSEMENT FOR PASSENGER VES-**  
7 **SELS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12112(a)(2)(B) of title  
9 46, United States Code, is amended—

1           (1) in clause (ii), by striking “; or” and insert-  
2           ing a semicolon;

3           (2) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and in-  
4           serting “; or”; and

5           (3) by adding at the end the following:

6                       “(iv) is a vessel that transports pas-  
7                       sengers between ports or places in the  
8                       United States to which the coastwise laws  
9                       apply, either directly or via a foreign port;  
10                      and”.

11       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 12121 of  
12       title 46, United States Code, is repealed.

13       (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the  
14       amendments made by this section shall be construed to  
15       exempt a vessel that transports passengers between ports  
16       or places in the United States to which the coastwise laws  
17       apply, either directly or via a foreign port, from any appli-  
18       cable law of the United States except as explicitly provided  
19       in such amendments.

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