

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2876

To promote the recycling of vessels in the United States and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. VELA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To promote the recycling of vessels in the United States 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 TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ships to be Recycled
5 in the States Act” or the “STORIS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON DISPOSITION OF VESSELS NOT**
2 **WORTH PRESERVING.**

3 Section 57102 of title 46, United States Code, is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

6 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of the enactment of the Ships to be
8 Recycled in the States Act and annually thereafter,
9 the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination
10 with the Secretary of the Navy, shall report to the
11 Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on
12 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
13 ate and the Committees on Armed Services, the
14 Committee on Natural Resources, and the Com-
15 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
16 House of Representatives on the vessel disposal pro-
17 gram carried out under this section and on any
18 other disposal of obsolete vessels owned by the Gov-
19 ernment carried out under any other authority.

20 “(2) CONTENT.—Each annual report required
21 by paragraph (1) shall include the total amount of—

22 “(A) appropriated funds expended to carry
23 out the vessel disposal program under this sec-
24 tion and any other disposal of obsolete vessels
25 owned by the Government carried out under

1 any other authority during the previous year;
2 and

3 “(B) the sales accrued and disbursed for
4 such program and disposal.”.

5 **SEC. 3. AUDIT OF VESSEL DISPOSAL PROGRAM.**

6 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 270 days after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
8 General of the United States shall conduct and submit to
9 the appropriate committees of Congress a full audit of all
10 excess Federal Government vessel sales contracts, includ-
11 ing resulting receivables and expenditures, entered into by
12 the Maritime Administration in the period beginning Jan-
13 uary 1, 1994, and ending on the date of the enactment
14 of this Act.

15 (b) CONTENT.—The audit required by subsection (a)
16 shall review—

17 (1) receivables, by contract from award to con-
18 tract close-out; where receivables were held or in-
19 vested; expenditures and distributions, including re-
20 cipients of grants under the National Maritime Her-
21 itage Grants Program since the date of the enact-
22 ment of the National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994
23 (Public Law 103–451); internal safeguards from
24 waste, fraud, and abuse; and the status of any re-
25 maining unexpended funds;

1 (2) agency management of the sales program,
2 including review of safeguards from fraud, waste,
3 and abuse from initial offerings, to submission of
4 bids, and through award to contract close-out and
5 any resulting protest or litigation;

6 (3) contracts for the sale of excess Federal Gov-
7 ernment vessels that were awarded to bidders that
8 were not the highest bidders and the financial im-
9 pact of those awards on recipients of grants under
10 the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program, in-
11 cluding the State maritime academies, and the
12 United States Merchant Marine Academy, and on
13 the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program; and

14 (4) agreements the Maritime Administration
15 has entered into with the Coast Guard, the Depart-
16 ment of Defense, the General Services Administra-
17 tion, the Environmental Protection Agency, and
18 other Government agencies to dispose of excess Gov-
19 ernment vessels, including whether those agreements
20 and agency policies are consistent with the Duncan
21 Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for
22 2009 (Public Law 110–417) and other relevant
23 State and Federal laws.

24 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means the following:

4 (A) The Committee on Armed Services and
5 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
6 Transportation of the Senate.

7 (B) The Committee on Armed Services,
8 the Committee on Natural Resources, and the
9 Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
10 ture of the House of Representatives.

11 (2) NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE GRANTS
12 PROGRAM.—The term “National Maritime Heritage
13 Grants Program” means the National Maritime
14 Heritage Grants Program established pursuant to
15 the National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994 (Public
16 Law 103–451; superseded by chapter 3087 of title
17 54, United States Code).

18 (3) STATE MARITIME ACADEMY.—The term
19 “State maritime academy” has the meaning given
20 that term in section 51102 of title 46, United States
21 Code.

22 (4) VESSEL OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND.—
23 The term “Vessel Operations Revolving Fund”
24 means the Vessel Operations Revolving Fund estab-

1 lished under section 50301 of title 46, United States
2 Code.

3 **SEC. 4. OBSOLETE VESSELS.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFERS TO NONCITI-
5 ZENS.—Section 57104 of title 46, United States Code, is
6 amended by striking subsection (d).

7 (b) SELECTION OF SCRAPPING FACILITIES.—Section
8 3502 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authoriza-
9 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Pub-
10 lic Law 106–398; 54 U.S.C. 308704 note) is amended—

11 (1) by striking subsections (b), (e), and (f);

12 (2) in subsection (c)(2)(A), by striking “para-
13 graph)” and all that follows through the end and in-
14 serting “paragraph);”; and

15 (3) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “shall—”
16 and all that follows through the end and inserting
17 “shall use full and open competition.”.

18 (c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM SALE AND
19 SCRAPPING OF OBSOLETE VESSELS.—Subsection
20 (a)(1)(C) of section 308704 of title 54, United States
21 Code, is amended to read as follows:

22 “(C) The remainder shall be available to
23 the Secretary to carry out the Program, as pro-
24 vided in subsection (b).”.

1 (d) BEST VALUE CRITERIA.—Subsection (c)(1) of
2 section 308704 of title 54, United States Code, is amend-
3 ed in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking
4 “services)” and inserting “services from a pool of pre-
5 qualified domestic ship recycling companies)”.

6 **SEC. 5. DISMANTLEMENT OF VESSELS.**

7 Section 6(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15
8 U.S.C. 2605(e)) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
10 graph (6); and

11 (2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
14 prohibit the dismantling of a vessel or marine structure
15 for the purpose of recycling materials recovered from the
16 vessel or marine structure. If a person so dismantling a
17 vessel or marine structure finds polychlorinated biphenyls,
18 or suspects polychlorinated biphenyls will be found, during
19 the dismantling, then the person—

20 “(A) shall notify the Administrator; and

21 “(B) shall sample, remove, and dispose of any
22 polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with the rel-
23 evant provisions of this Act, other Federal law, and
24 any guidance of the Administrator applicable to

1 sampling vessels or marine structures for poly-
2 chlorinated biphenyls.”.

3 **SEC. 6. REEFS FOR MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF OBSOLETE VES-
6 SELS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Section 3(d) of the Act
7 entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for the fiscal
8 year 1973 for certain maritime programs of the Depart-
9 ment of Commerce, and for related purposes”, approved
10 August 22, 1972 (Public Law 92–402; 16 U.S.C.
11 1220(d)), is amended by striking “States, and any foreign
12 country,” and inserting “States”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7 of the
14 Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for the
15 fiscal year 1973 for certain maritime programs of the De-
16 partment of Commerce, and for related purposes”, ap-
17 proved August 22, 1972 (Public Law 92–402; 16 U.S.C.
18 1220c–1), is amended by striking subsection (d).

19 **SEC. 7. PUBLICATION OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**
20 **AGREEMENTS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 501 of title 46, United
22 States Code, is amended by adding the following:

1 **“§ 50114. Publication of Maritime Administration ves-**
2 **sel recycling agreements**

3 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLICATION.—The Ad-
4 ministrator of the Maritime Administration shall make
5 available to the public on the website of the Maritime Ad-
6 ministration the full text of each memorandum of agree-
7 ment, memorandum of understanding, cooperative agree-
8 ment, and similar agreement between the Maritime Ad-
9 ministration and any other agency, department, or person.

10 “(b) TIMING OF PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30
11 days after the date a document referred to in subsection
12 (a) is signed by the parties, the Administrator of the Mari-
13 time Administration shall make such document available
14 on the website of the Maritime Administration.

15 “(c) INITIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days
16 after the date of the enactment of the Ships to be Recycled
17 in the States Act, the Administrator of the Maritime Ad-
18 ministration shall make available on the website of the
19 Maritime Administration each document referred to in
20 subsection (a) that was in effect on the date of the enact-
21 ment of such Act.”.

22 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of
23 sections for chapter 501 of title 46, United States Code,
24 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“50114. Publication of Maritime Administration agreements.”.