

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3614

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on offshore wind development vessels, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Ms. ROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Education and the Workforce, 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 direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on offshore wind development vessels, 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 “American Offshore
5 Wind Opportunity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GAO STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
4 of the United States shall initiate a study described in sub-
5 section (c).

6 (b) SUBMISSION.—The Comptroller General shall
7 submit to appropriate congressional committees, including
8 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and
9 the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the
10 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
11 merce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on
12 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the
13 results of the study under subsection (a).

14 (c) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—In conducting the study
15 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall in-
16 clude—

17 (1) an outline of policy and regulatory options
18 that could be adopted to increase the role of United
19 States built vessels, flagged vessels, and mariners in
20 offshore wind turbine installation to meet the goal of
21 developing 30 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by
22 2030;

23 (2) an outline of any potential ways to—

24 (A) increase the role of United States
25 crews on vessels that are subject to the Outer
26 Continental Shelf Lands Act and not subject to

1 chapters 121 and 551 of title 46, United States
2 Code, commonly referred to as the “Jones Act”;
3 and

4 (B) domestically manufacture vessels de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A);

6 (3) an assessment of the workforce needs that
7 would be required to build an United States mariner
8 workforce for offshore wind construction, operations,
9 and maintenance to meet the 30 gigawatt goal in
10 subsection (1), specifically—

11 (A) the number of such workers needed to
12 crew the offshore wind vessels necessary to
13 meet the goal of developing 30 gigawatts of off-
14 shore wind capacity by 2030;

15 (B) the number of workers needed to man-
16 ufacture, build, operate, maintain, and support
17 offshore wind projects;

18 (C) the types of skills and competencies,
19 including those unique to offshore wind con-
20 struction, operations, and maintenance, re-
21 quired for such employment opportunities;

22 (D) the required industry or recognized
23 postsecondary credentials required of such
24 workers;

1 (E) the adjacent skills required for other
2 similar occupations, such as oil drilling, that
3 can be leveraged for reskilling of existing
4 United States workers;

5 (F) the gaps in the availability of reg-
6 istered apprenticeship programs and the ability
7 of employers to recruit, hire, and train such
8 workers, including—

9 (i) the total cost of training for such
10 programs to skill up such workers; and

11 (ii) the policies the United States
12 Government can take to eliminate such
13 gaps and costs; and

14 (G) the actions that foreign and domestic
15 wind developers and vessel operators are taking
16 or could be taking to ensure the availability of
17 United States mariners;

18 (4) an assessment of the capacity of United
19 States shipyards to build wind turbine installation
20 vessels, heavy lift vessels, fall pipe vessels, cable lay-
21 ing vessels, and oceanographic research vessels in
22 addition to larger Jones Act compliant feeder ves-
23 sels; and

24 (5) an assessment of public and private invest-
25 ments needed to spur use of a United States manu-

1 factured fleet of offshore wind vessels to support
2 meeting the goal of developing 30 gigawatts of off-
3 shore wind capacity by 2030.

