

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4376

To direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study and report to the Congress regarding recreational vessel operator training.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2023

Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Mr. LALOTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study and report to the Congress regarding recreational vessel operator training.

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 “Brianna Lieneck Boat-  
5 ing Safety Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. RECREATIONAL VESSEL OPERATOR EDUCATION**  
7 **AND TRAINING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the depart-

1 ment in which the Coast Guard is operating shall study  
2 and report to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-  
3 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
4 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
5 Senate regarding recreational vessel operator training.

6 The study and report shall include a review of—

7           (1) Coast Guard Auxiliary and Power Squadron  
8           training programs;

9           (2) existing State boating education programs,  
10          including programs by the National Association of  
11          State Boating Law Administrators (in this section  
12          referred to as “NASBLA”); and

13          (3) other hands-on training programs available  
14          to recreational vessel operators.

15          (b) INCLUDED SUBJECTS.—The study shall specifi-  
16 cally examine—

17           (1) course materials;

18           (2) course content;

19           (3) training methodology;

20           (4) assessment methodology; and

21           (5) relevancy of course content to risks for rec-  
22 reational boaters.

23          (c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report under this  
24 section shall include—

1           (1) a section regarding steps the Coast Guard  
2           and NASBLA have taken to encourage States to  
3           adopt mandatory recreational vessel operator train-  
4           ing;

5           (2) an evaluation of the ability of the States to  
6           harmonize their education programs and testing pro-  
7           cedures;

8           (3) an analysis of the extent States have pro-  
9           vided reciprocity among the States for their respec-  
10          tive mandatory and voluntary education require-  
11          ments and programs;

12          (4) a section examining the level of uniformity  
13          of education and training between the States that  
14          currently have mandatory education and training  
15          programs;

16          (5) a section outlining the minimum standards  
17          for education of recreational vessel operators;

18          (6) a section analyzing how a Federal training  
19          and testing program can be harmonized with State  
20          training and testing programs;

21          (7) an analysis of course content and delivery  
22          methodology for relevancy to risks for recreational  
23          boaters;

24          (8) a description of the current phase-in periods  
25          for mandatory boater education in State mandatory

1 education programs and recommendation for the  
2 phase-in period for a mandatory boater education  
3 program including an evaluation as to whether the  
4 phase-in period affects course availability and cost;

5 (9) a description of the extent States allow for  
6 experienced boaters to bypass mandatory education  
7 courses and go directly to testing;

8 (10) recommendations for a bypass option for  
9 experienced boaters;

10 (11) a section analyzing how the Coast Guard  
11 would administer a Federal boating education, train-  
12 ing, and testing program; and

13 (12) an analysis of the extent to which a Fed-  
14 eral boating education, training, and testing pro-  
15 gram should be required for all waters of a State,  
16 including internal waters.

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