

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 874

To amend title 46, United States Code, to allow the Administrator of the Maritime Administration to finance vessel retrofit, repair, or similar work required for the vessel to be a vessel of the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to allow the Administrator of the Maritime Administration to finance vessel retrofit, repair, or similar work required for the vessel to be a vessel of 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 TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Ship Financ-  
5 ing Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LOANS FOR RETROFITTING TO QUALIFY AS A VES-**  
2 **SEL OF THE UNITED STATES.**

3 Section 53706(a) of title 46, United States Code, is  
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(8) Financing (including reimbursement of an  
6 obligor for expenditures previously made for) the re-  
7 construction, reconditioning, retrofitting, repair, or  
8 similar work in a shipyard located in the United  
9 States—

10 “(A) required for the vessel to be a vessel  
11 of the United States;

12 “(B) required for the vessel to be issued a  
13 coastwise endorsement under chapter 121;

14 “(C) to convert a civilian vessel of the  
15 United States to a more useful military configu-  
16 ration;

17 “(D) for any vessel under contract to the  
18 Federal Government; or

19 “(E) for any vessel participating in—

20 “(i) the Maritime Security Program  
21 or the Emergency Preparedness Program  
22 under chapter 531;

23 “(ii) the Cable Security Fleet under  
24 chapter 532;

25 “(iii) the Tanker Security Fleet under  
26 chapter 534; or

1 “(iv) the National Defense Reserve  
2 Fleet under section 57100.”.

3 **SEC. 3. BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPYARD**  
4 **MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT PRO-**  
5 **GRAM.**

6 Section 53733 of title 46, United States Code, is  
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(f) BUY AMERICA.—Section 54101(d)(2) shall apply  
9 to any funds obligated by the Administrator under this  
10 section.”.

11 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

12 (a) CHAPTER 537.—The analysis for chapter 537 of  
13 title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the  
14 item relating to section 53703 and inserting the following:  
“53703. Application and administration.”.

15 (b) CHAPTER 541.—The analysis for chapter 541 of  
16 title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-  
17 lows:

“CHAPTER 541—MISCELLANEOUS

“Sec.

“54101. Assistance for small shipyards.”.

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