

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3731

To permit under certain conditions the transportation of passengers between ports in the State of Alaska, or between a port in the State of Alaska and a port in the State of Washington, on vessels not qualified to engage in the coastwise trade that transport more than 1,000 passengers, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Ms. MURKOWSKI 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 permit under certain conditions the transportation of passengers between ports in the State of Alaska, or between a port in the State of Alaska and a port in the State of Washington, on vessels not qualified to engage in the coastwise trade that transport more than 1,000 passengers, 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 “Cruising for Alaska’s  
5 Workforce Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LARGE CRUISE SHIPS TRANSPORTING PASSENGERS**  
 2 **BETWEEN PORTS IN ALASKA OR BETWEEN A**  
 3 **PORT IN ALASKA AND A PORT IN WASH-**  
 4 **INGTON.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 551 of title 46, United  
 6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 7 lowing:

8 **“§ 55124. Large cruise ships transporting passengers**  
 9 **between ports in Alaska or between a**  
 10 **port in Alaska and a port in Washington**

11 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) CERTIFICATE.—The term ‘certificate’  
 13 means a certificate of financial responsibility for in-  
 14 demnification of passengers for nonperformance of  
 15 transportation issued by the Federal Maritime Com-  
 16 mission under section 44102 of this title.

17 “(2) COVERED PASSENGER VESSEL.—The term  
 18 ‘covered passenger vessel’ means a vessel to which  
 19 sections 3507 and 3508 of this title apply, as de-  
 20 scribed in section 3507(k) of this title, that is trans-  
 21 porting more than 1,000 passengers.

22 “(3) COVERED ROUTE.—The term ‘covered  
 23 route’, with respect to the transportation of pas-  
 24 sengers, means a route transporting passengers di-  
 25 rectly between—

1           “(A) a port in the State of Alaska and an-  
2           other port in the State of Alaska; or

3           “(B) a port in the State of Alaska and a  
4           port in the State of Washington.

5           “(b) EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANS-  
6 PORTATION OF PASSENGERS.—Notwithstanding section  
7 55103 and except as otherwise provided in this section,  
8 a covered passenger vessel that is not qualified to engage  
9 in the coastwise trade may transport passengers on a cov-  
10 ered route.

11          “(c) EXPIRATION OF EXEMPTION.—On a showing to  
12 the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard  
13 is operating made after the date of enactment of this sec-  
14 tion by the owner or charterer of a covered passenger ves-  
15 sel that such vessel is qualified to engage in the coastwise  
16 trade and is offering or advertising passenger service be-  
17 tween a port in one State and a port in another State,  
18 or between 2 ports in the same State, without regard to  
19 whether such service is on a covered route, pursuant to  
20 a certificate, the Secretary shall notify the owner or oper-  
21 ator of each covered passenger vessel transporting pas-  
22 sengers under subsection (b) on any covered route to ter-  
23 minate that transportation within 270 days after the Sec-  
24 retary’s notification. Except as provided in subsection (d),  
25 the authority to transport passengers under subsection (b)

1 on any covered route shall expire at the end of that 270-  
2 day period.

3 “(d) DELAYING EXPIRATION.—If the covered pas-  
4 senger vessel described in subsection (c) that is qualified  
5 to engage in the coastwise trade has not begun the service  
6 described in such subsection within 270 days after the  
7 Secretary’s notification, the expiration provided by sub-  
8 section (c) is delayed until 90 days after such vessel begins  
9 that service.

10 “(e) REINSTATEMENT OF EXEMPTION.—If the Sec-  
11 retary finds that the covered passenger vessel described  
12 in subsection (c) that is qualified to engage in the coast-  
13 wise trade is no longer available for the service described  
14 in such subsection or any passenger service between a port  
15 in one State and a port in another State, or between 2  
16 ports in the same State, the authority to transport pas-  
17 sengers on any covered route under subsection (b) shall  
18 be reinstated.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for  
20 chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code, is amended  
21 by adding at the end the following:

“55124. Large cruise ships transporting passengers between ports in Alaska or  
between a port in Alaska and a port in Washington.”.

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