

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 608

To provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing licenses and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2011

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) 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 provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing licenses 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 “Maritime Lien Reform  
5 Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON MARITIME LIENS ON FISHING LI-**  
7 **CENSE AND LICENSE DESCRIPTION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 313 of  
9 title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
10 end the following:

1 **“§ 31310. Limitation on maritime liens on fishing li-**  
2 ****cense and license description****

3       “(a) IN GENERAL.—This chapter—

4               “(1) does not establish a maritime lien on a li-  
5       cense that—

6                       “(A) authorizes a person or use of a vessel  
7       to engage in fishing; and

8                       “(B) is issued under State or Federal law;  
9       and

10               “(2) does not authorize any civil action to en-  
11       force a maritime lien on such a license.

12       “(b) FISHING LICENSE DESCRIBED.—A fishing li-  
13       cense—

14               “(1) is governed solely by the State or Federal  
15       law under which it was issued; and

16               “(2) is not included in the whole of a vessel or  
17       as an appurtenance or intangible of a vessel for any  
18       purpose.

19       “(c) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

20       Nothing in subsections (a) and (b) shall be construed as  
21       imposing any limitation upon the authority of the Sec-  
22       retary of Commerce to modify, suspend, revoke, or sanc-  
23       tion any Federal fishery license issued by the Secretary  
24       of Commerce or to bring a civil action to enforce such  
25       modification, suspension, revocation, or sanction.”.

1           (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of  
2 sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by  
3 inserting after the item relating to section 31309 the fol-  
4 lowing:

“31310. Limitation on maritime liens on fishing license and license descrip-  
tion.”.

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