

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1717

To amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 8, 2015

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. COTTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

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. FIRE-RETARDANT MATERIALS EXEMPTION.**

4 Section 3503 of title 46, United States Code, is
5 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2008, this
2 section” and inserting “2028, this subsection”; and

3 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
5 (A), by striking “this section” and inserting
6 “subsection (a)”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
8 “and crew” after “prospective passengers”;

9 (C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or
10 crew member” after “passenger”;

11 (D) in subparagraph (C), by striking
12 “and” at the end; and

13 (E) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
14 serting the following:

15 “(D) the owner or managing operator of
16 the vessel shall—

17 “(i) make annual structural alter-
18 ations to not less than 10 percent of the
19 areas of the vessel that are not constructed
20 of fire-retardant materials;

21 “(ii) provide advance notice to the
22 Coast Guard regarding the alterations
23 made pursuant to clause (i); and

1 “(iii) comply with any noncombustible
2 material requirements prescribed by the
3 Coast Guard; and

4 “(E) the requirements referred to in sub-
5 paragraph (D)(iii) shall, to the extent prac-
6 ticable, be consistent with the preservation of
7 the historic integrity of the vessel in areas car-
8 rying or accessible to passengers or generally
9 visible to the public.”.

○