



Cruz-1

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To require the United States Coast Guard to implement new rules for Merchant Marine credentialing for veterans and members of the Uniformed Services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 4802

To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. CRUZ *and* Chair Cantwell

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

2 **SEC. ____ . MILITARY TO MARINERS ACT OF 2022.**

3 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the
4 “Military to Mariners Act of 2022”.

5 (b) **FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—

6 (1) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following
7 findings:

8 (A) The United States Uniformed Services
9 are composed of the world’s most highly trained
10 and professional servicemembers.

1 (B) A robust Merchant Marine and ensur-
2 ing United States mariners can compete in the
3 global workforce are vital to economic and na-
4 tional security.

5 (C) Attracting additional trained and
6 credentialed mariners, particularly from active
7 duty servicemembers and military veterans, will
8 support United States national security require-
9 ments and provide meaningful, well-paying jobs
10 to United States veterans.

11 (D) There is a need to ensure that the
12 Federal Government has a robust, state of the
13 art, and efficient merchant mariner
14 credentialing system to support economic and
15 national security.

16 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
17 Congress that—

18 (A) veterans and members of the Uni-
19 formed Services who pursue credentialing to
20 join the United States Merchant Marine should
21 receive vigorous support; and

22 (B) it is incumbent upon the regulatory
23 bodies of the United States to streamline regu-
24 lations to facilitate transition of veterans and
25 members of the Uniformed Services into the

1 United States Merchant Marine to maintain a
2 strong maritime presence in the United States
3 and worldwide.

4 (c) MODIFICATION OF SEA SERVICE REQUIREMENTS
5 FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS FOR VETERANS
6 AND MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—

7 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8 (A) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL.—

9 The term “merchant mariner credential” has
10 the meaning given the term in section 7510 of
11 title 46, United States Code.

12 (B) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
13 means the Secretary of the department in which
14 the Coast Guard is operating.

15 (C) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term
16 “Uniformed Services” has the meaning given
17 the term “uniformed services” in section 2101
18 of title 5, United States Code.

19 (2) REVIEW AND REGULATIONS.—Notwith-
20 standing any other provision of law, not later than
21 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
22 Secretary shall—

23 (A) review and examine—

24 (i) the requirements and procedures
25 for veterans and members of the Uni-

1 formed Services to receive a merchant
2 mariner credential;

3 (ii) the classifications of sea service
4 acquired through training and service as a
5 member of the Uniformed Services and
6 level of equivalence to sea service on mer-
7 chant vessels;

8 (iii) the amount of sea service, includ-
9 ing percent of the total time onboard for
10 purposes of equivalent underway service,
11 that will be accepted as required experience
12 for all endorsements for applicants for a
13 merchant mariner credential who are vet-
14 erans or members of the Uniformed Serv-
15 ices;

16 (B) provide the availability for a fully
17 internet-based application process for a mer-
18 chant mariner credential, to the maximum ex-
19 tent practicable; and

20 (C) issue new regulations to—

21 (i) reduce paperwork, delay, and other
22 burdens for applicants for a merchant
23 mariner credential who are veterans and
24 members of the Uniformed Services, and,
25 if determined to be appropriate, increase

1 the acceptable percentages of time equiva-
2 lent to sea service for such applicants; and
3 (ii) reduce burdens and create a
4 means of alternative compliance to dem-
5 onstrate instructor competency for Stand-
6 ards of Training, Certification and
7 Watchkeeping for Seafarers courses.

8 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out para-
9 graph (2), the Secretary shall consult with the Na-
10 tional Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Com-
11 mittee taking into account the present and future
12 needs of the United States Merchant Marine labor
13 workforce.

14 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee on
16 the Marine Transportation System shall submit to
17 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
18 portation of the Senate, the Committee on Armed
19 Services of the Senate, the Committee on Energy
20 and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and
21 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
22 Representatives, a report that contains an update on
23 the activities carried out to implement—

24 (A) the July 2020 report by the Com-
25 mittee on the Marine Transportation System to

1 the White House Office of Trade and Manufac-
2 turing Policy on the implementation of Execu-
3 tive Order 13860 (84 Fed. Reg. 8407; relating
4 to supporting the transition of active duty
5 servicemembers and military veterans into the
6 Merchant Marine); and

7 (B) section 3511 of the National Defense
8 Authorization Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-92;
9 133 Stat. 1978).

10 (d) ASSESSMENT OF SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOY-
11 MENT AS A MERCHANT MARINER.—The Secretary of the
12 department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in col-
13 laboration with the Secretary of Defense, shall assess the
14 use of the SkillBridge program of the Department of De-
15 fense as a means for transitioning active duty sea service
16 personnel toward employment as a merchant mariner.