

*Tom Sulli*

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To reduce the incidence of sexual harassment and assault at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to reauthorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 2829**

To amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, 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. SULLIVAN to the amendment (No. \_\_\_\_\_) proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

*+ Ms. Cantwell  
+ Mr. Wicker  
+ Ms. Ayotte  
+ Mr. Schatz*

Viz:

- 1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

1 **TITLE \_\_\_\_\_—NATIONAL OCEANIC**  
2 **AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINIS-**  
3 **TRATION SEXUAL HARASS-**  
4 **MENT AND ASSAULT PREVEN-**  
5 **TION ACT**

6 **SEC. ...00. SHORT TITLE.**

7 This title may be cited as the “National Oceanic and  
8 Atmospheric Administration Sexual Harassment and As-  
9 sult Prevention Act”.

10 **Subtitle A—Sexual Harassment and**  
11 **Assault Prevention at the Na-**  
12 **tional Oceanic and Atmospheric**  
13 **Administration**

14 **SEC. ...11. ACTIONS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT**  
15 **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC AD-**  
16 **MINISTRATION.**

17 (a) **REQUIRED POLICY.**—Not later than 1 year after  
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
19 Commerce shall, acting through the Under Secretary for  
20 Oceans and Atmosphere, develop a policy on the preven-  
21 tion of and response to sexual harassment involving em-  
22 ployees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
23 tration, members of the commissioned officer corps of the  
24 Administration, and individuals who work with or conduct  
25 business on behalf of the Administration.

1 (b) MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN POLICY.—The  
2 policy developed under subsection (a) shall include—

3 (1) establishment of a program to promote  
4 awareness of the incidence of sexual harassment;

5 (2) clear procedures an individual should follow  
6 in the case of an occurrence of sexual harassment,  
7 including—

8 (A) a specification of the person or persons  
9 to whom an alleged occurrence of sexual harass-  
10 ment should be reported by an individual and  
11 options for confidential reporting, including—

12 (i) options and contact information  
13 for after-hours contact; and

14 (ii) procedure for obtaining assistance  
15 and reporting sexual harassment while  
16 working in a remote scientific field camp,  
17 at sea, or in another field status; and

18 (B) a specification of any other person  
19 whom the victim should contact;

20 (3) establishment of a mechanism by which—

21 (A) questions regarding sexual harassment  
22 can be confidentially asked and confidentially  
23 answered; and

24 (B) incidents of sexual harassment can be  
25 confidentially reported; and

1           (4) a prohibition on retaliation and con-  
2           sequences for retaliatory actions.

3           (c) CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE.—In developing  
4 the policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary may  
5 consult or receive assistance from such State, local, and  
6 national organizations and subject matter experts as the  
7 Secretary considers appropriate.

8           (d) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—The Secretary shall  
9 ensure that the policy developed under subsection (a) is  
10 available to—

11           (1) all employees of the Administration and  
12           members of the commissioned officer corps of the  
13           Administration, including those employees and mem-  
14           bers who conduct field work for the Administration;  
15           and

16           (2) the public.

17           (e) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF EQUAL EMPLOY-  
18           MENT OPPORTUNITY PERSONNEL.—The Secretary shall  
19 ensure that at least 1 employee of the Administration who  
20 is tasked with handling matters relating to equal employ-  
21 ment opportunity or sexual harassment is stationed—

22           (1) in each region in which the Administration  
23           conducts operations; and

24           (2) in each marine and aviation center of the  
25           Administration.

1 (f) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than 4  
3 times each year, the Director of the Civil Rights Of-  
4 fice of the Administration shall submit to the Under  
5 Secretary a report on sexual harassment in the Ad-  
6 ministration.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under  
8 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

9 (A) Number of sexual harassment cases,  
10 both actionable and non-actionable, involving  
11 individuals covered by the policy developed  
12 under subsection (a).

13 (B) Number of open actionable sexual har-  
14 assment cases and how long the cases have  
15 been open.

16 (C) Such trends or region specific issues as  
17 the Director may have discovered with respect  
18 to sexual harassment in the Administration.

19 (D) Such recommendations as the Director  
20 may have with respect to sexual harassment in  
21 the Administration.

1 **SEC. 12. ACTIONS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL ASSAULT AT NA-**  
2 **TIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN-**  
3 **ISTRATION.**

4 (a) **COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON PREVENTION AND**  
5 **RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULTS.**—Not later than 1 year  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
7 of Commerce shall, acting through the Under Secretary  
8 for Oceans and Atmosphere, develop a comprehensive pol-  
9 icy on the prevention of and response to sexual assaults  
10 involving employees of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
11 pheric Administration, members of the commissioned offi-  
12 cer corps of the Administration, and individuals who work  
13 with or conduct business on behalf of the Administration.

14 (b) **ELEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICY.**—The  
15 comprehensive policy developed under subsection (a) shall,  
16 at minimum, address the following matters:

17 (1) Prevention measures.

18 (2) Education and training on prevention and  
19 response.

20 (3) A list of support resources an individual  
21 may use in the occurrence of sexual assault, includ-  
22 ing—

23 (A) options and contact information for  
24 after-hours contact; and

25 (B) procedure for obtaining assistance and  
26 reporting sexual assault while working in a re-

1           mote scientific field camp, at sea, or in another  
2           field status;

3           (4) Easy and ready availability of information  
4           described in paragraph (3).

5           (5) Establishing a mechanism by which—

6                 (A) questions regarding sexual assault can  
7                 be confidentially asked and confidentially an-  
8                 swered; and

9                 (B) incidents of sexual assault can be con-  
10                fidentially reported.

11           (6) Protocols for the investigation of complaints  
12           by command and law enforcement personnel.

13           (7) Prohibiting retaliation and consequences for  
14           retaliatory actions against someone who reports a  
15           sexual assault.

16           (8) Oversight by the Under Secretary of admin-  
17           istrative and disciplinary actions in response to sub-  
18           stantial incidents of sexual assault.

19           (9) Victim advocacy, including establishment of  
20           and the responsibilities and training requirements  
21           for victim advocates as described in subsection (c).

22           (10) Availability of resources for victims of sex-  
23           ual assault within other Federal agencies and State,  
24           local, and national organizations.

25           (c) VICTIM ADVOCACY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
2 through the Under Secretary, shall establish victim  
3 advocates to advocate for victims of sexual assaults  
4 involving employees of the Administration, members  
5 of the commissioned officer corps of the Administra-  
6 tion, and individuals who work with or conduct busi-  
7 ness on behalf of the Administration.

8           (2) VICTIM ADVOCATES.—For purposes of this  
9 subsection, a victim advocate is a permanent em-  
10 ployee of the Administration who—

11                 (A) is trained in matters relating to sexual  
12 assault and the comprehensive policy developed  
13 under subsection (a); and

14                 (B) serve as a victim advocate voluntarily  
15 and in addition to the employee's other duties  
16 as an employee of the Administration.

17           (3) PRIMARY DUTIES.—The primary duties of a  
18 victim advocate established under paragraph (1)  
19 shall include the following:

20                 (A) Supporting victims of sexual assault  
21 and informing them of their rights and the re-  
22 sources available to them as victims.

23                 (B) Acting as a companion in navigating  
24 investigative, medical, mental and emotional



1 health, and recovery processes relating to sexual  
2 assault.

3 (C) Helping to identify resources to ensure  
4 the safety of victims of sexual assault.

5 (4) LOCATION.—The Secretary shall ensure  
6 that at least 1 victim advocate established under  
7 paragraph (1) ~~is~~ is stationed—

8 (A) in each region in which the Adminis-  
9 tration conducts operations; and

10 (B) in each marine and aviation center of  
11 the Administration.

12 (5) HOTLINE.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this  
14 subsection, the Secretary shall establish a tele-  
15 phone number at which a victim of a sexual as-  
16 sault can ~~get in touch with~~ <sup>contact</sup> a victim advocate.

17 (B) 24-HOUR ACCESS.—The Secretary  
18 shall ensure that the telephone number estab-  
19 lished under subparagraph (A) is monitored at  
20 all times.

21 (6) FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER EN-  
22 TITIES.—The Secretary may enter into formal rela-  
23 tionships with other entities to make available addi-  
24 tional victim advocates.

1 (d) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—The Secretary shall  
2 ensure that the policy developed under subsection (a) is  
3 available to—

4 (1) all employees of the Administration and  
5 members of the commissioned officer corps of the  
6 Administration, including those employees and mem-  
7 bers who conduct field work for the Administration;  
8 and

9 (2) the public.

10 (e) CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE.—In developing  
11 the policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary may  
12 consult or receive assistance from such State, local, and  
13 national organizations and subject matter experts as the  
14 Secretary considers appropriate.

15 **SEC. 13. RIGHTS OF THE VICTIM OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

16 A victim of a sexual assault covered by the com-  
17 prehensive policy developed under section 12(a) has the  
18 right to be reasonably protected from the accused.

19 **SEC. 14. CHANGE OF STATION.**

20 (a) CHANGE OF STATION, UNIT TRANSFER, OR  
21 CHANGE OF WORK LOCATION OF VICTIMS.—

22 (1) TIMELY CONSIDERATION AND ACTION UPON  
23 REQUEST.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting  
24 through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmos-  
25 phere, shall—

1           (A) in the case of a member of the com-  
2           missioned officer corps of the National Oceanic  
3           and Atmospheric Administration who was a vic-  
4           tim of a sexual assault, in order to reduce the  
5           possibility of retaliation or further sexual as-  
6           sault, provide for timely determination and ac-  
7           tion on an application submitted by the victim  
8           for consideration of a change of station or unit  
9           transfer of the victim; and

10           (B) in the case of an employee of the Ad-  
11           ministration who was a victim of a sexual as-  
12           sault, to the degree practicable and in order to  
13           reduce the possibility of retaliation against the  
14           employee for reporting the sexual assault, ac-  
15           commodate a request for a change of work loca-  
16           tion of the victim.

17           (2) PROCEDURES.—

18           (A) PERIOD FOR APPROVAL AND DIS-  
19           APPROVAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
20           Under Secretary, shall ensure that an applica-  
21           tion or request submitted under paragraph (1)  
22           for a change of station, unit transfer, or change  
23           of work location is approved or denied within  
24           72 hours of the submission of the application or  
25           request.

1 (B) REVIEW.—If an application or request  
2 submitted under paragraph (1) by a victim of  
3 a sexual assault for a change of station, unit  
4 transfer, or change of work location of the vic-  
5 tim is denied—

6 (i) the victim may request the Sec-  
7 retary review the denial; and

8 (ii) the Secretary, acting through the  
9 Under Secretary, shall, not later than 72  
10 hours after receiving such request, affirm  
11 or overturn the denial.

12 (b) CHANGE OF STATION, UNIT TRANSFER, AND  
13 CHANGE OF WORK LOCATION OF ALLEGED PERPETRA-  
14 TORS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
16 through the Under Secretary, shall develop a policy  
17 for the protection of victims of sexual assault de-  
18 scribed in subsection (a)(1) by providing the alleged  
19 perpetrator of the sexual assault with a change of  
20 station, unit transfer, or change of work location, as  
21 the case may be, if the alleged perpetrator is a mem-  
22 ber of the commissioned officer corps of the Admin-  
23 istration or an employee of the Administration.

24 (2) POLICY REQUIREMENTS.—The policy re-  
25 quired by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

1                   (A) A means to control access to the vic-  
2                   tim.

3                   (B) Due process for the victim and the al-  
4                   leged perpetrator.

5           (c) REGULATIONS.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promul-  
7           gate regulations to carry out this section.

8           (2) CONSISTENCY.—When practicable, the Sec-  
9           retary shall make regulations promulgated under  
10          this section consistent with similar regulations pro-  
11          mulgated by the Secretary of Defense.

12 **SEC. 15. APPLICABILITY OF POLICIES TO CREWS OF VES-**  
13 **SELS SECURED BY NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**  
14 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION UNDER**  
15 **CONTRACT.**

16          The Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
17          shall ensure that each contract into which the Under Sec-  
18          retary enters for the use of a vessel by the National Oee-  
19          anic and Atmospheric Administration that covers the crew  
20          of the vessel, if any, shall include as a condition of the  
21          contract a provision that subjects such crew to the policy  
22          developed under section \_\_11(a) and the comprehensive  
23          policy developed under section \_\_12(a).

1 **SEC. 16. ANNUAL REPORT ON SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN THE**  
2 **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC AD-**  
3 **MINISTRATION.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than January 15 of  
5 each year, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the  
6 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of  
7 the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of  
8 the House of Representatives a report on the sexual as-  
9 saults involving employees of the National Oceanic and At-  
10 mospheric Administration, members of the commissioned  
11 officer corps of the Administration, and individuals who  
12 work with or conduct business on behalf of the Adminis-  
13 tration.

14 (b) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under sub-  
15 section (a) shall include, with respect to the previous cal-  
16 endar year, the following:

17 (1) The number of alleged sexual assaults in-  
18 volving employees, members, and individuals de-  
19 scribed in subsection (a).

20 (2) A synopsis of each case and the disciplinary  
21 action taken, if any, in each case.

22 (3) The policies, procedures, and processes im-  
23 plemented by the Secretary, and any updates or re-  
24 visions to such policies, procedures, and processes.

1           (4) A summary of the reports received by the  
2           Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere under  
3           section \_\_11(f).

4           (c) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—In preparing and sub-  
5           mitting a report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall  
6           ensure that no individual involved in an alleged sexual as-  
7           sault can be identified by the contents of the report.

8           **SEC. \_\_17. DEFINITION.**

9           In this subtitle, the term “sexual assault” shall have  
10          the meaning given such term in section 40002(a) of the  
11          Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.  
12          13925(a)).

13          **Subtitle B—Commissioned Officer**  
14          **Corps of the National Oceanic**  
15          **and Atmospheric Administra-**  
16          **tion**

17          **SEC. \_\_20. REFERENCES TO NATIONAL OCEANIC AND AT-**  
18                               **MOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMIS-**  
19                               **SIONED OFFICER CORPS ACT OF 2002.**

20          Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
21          this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
22          of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-  
23          sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
24          section or other provision of the National Oceanic and At-

1 Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps  
2 Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

3 **PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

4 **SEC. 214. STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION IN GRADE.**

5 Section 214 (33 U.S.C. 3004) is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 **“SEC. 214. STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION IN GRADE.**

8 “(a) GRADES.—The commissioned grades in the com-  
9 missioned officer corps of the Administration are the fol-  
10 lowing, in relative rank with officers of the Navy:

11 “(1) Vice admiral.

12 “(2) Rear admiral.

13 “(3) Rear admiral (lower half).

14 “(4) Captain.

15 “(5) Commander.

16 “(6) Lieutenant commander.

17 “(7) Lieutenant.

18 “(8) Lieutenant (junior grade).

19 “(9) Ensign.

20 “(b) GRADE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall  
21 prescribe, with respect to the distribution on the lineal list  
22 in grade, the percentages applicable to the grades set forth  
23 in subsection (a).

24 “(c) ANNUAL COMPUTATION OF NUMBER IN  
25 GRADE.—



1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than  
2           once each year, the Secretary shall make a computa-  
3           tion to determine the number of officers on the lin-  
4           eal list authorized to be serving in each grade.

5           “(2) METHOD OF COMPUTATION.—The number  
6           in each grade shall be computed by applying the ap-  
7           plicable percentage to the total number of such offi-  
8           cers serving on active duty on the date the computa-  
9           tion is made.

10          “(3) FRACTIONS.—If a final fraction occurs in  
11          computing the authorized number of officers in a  
12          grade, the nearest whole number shall be taken. If  
13          the fraction is  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the next higher whole number  
14          shall be taken.

15          “(d) TEMPORARY INCREASE IN NUMBERS.—The  
16          total number of officers authorized by law to be on the  
17          lineal list during a fiscal year may be temporarily exceeded  
18          if the average number on that list during that fiscal year  
19          does not exceed the authorized number.

20          “(e) POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSI-  
21          BILITY.—Officers serving in positions designated under  
22          section 228(a) and officers recalled from retired status  
23          shall not be counted when computing authorized strengths  
24          under subsection (c) and shall not count against those  
25          strengths.

1       “(f) PRESERVATION OF GRADE AND PAY.—No offi-  
2 cer may be reduced in grade or pay or separated from  
3 the commissioned officer corps of the Administration as  
4 the result of a computation made to determine the author-  
5 ized number of officers in the various grades.”.

6 **SEC. 22. RECALLED OFFICERS.**

7       Section 215 (33 U.S.C. 3005) is amended—

8           (1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by  
9 striking “Effective” and inserting the following:

10       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective”; and

11           (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
12 section:

13       “(b) POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSI-  
14 BILITY.—Officers serving in positions designated under  
15 section 228 and officers recalled from retired status—

16           “(1) may not be counted in determining the  
17 total number of authorized officers on the lineal list  
18 under this section; and

19           “(2) may not count against such number.”.

20 **SEC. 23. OBLIGATED SERVICE REQUIREMENT.**

21       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A (33 U.S.C. 3001 et  
22 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

23 **“SEC. 216. OBLIGATED SERVICE REQUIREMENT.**

24       “(a) IN GENERAL.—

1           “(1) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall pre-  
2           scribe the obligated service requirements for appoint-  
3           ments, training, promotions, separations, continu-  
4           ations, and retirement of officers not otherwise cov-  
5           ered by law.

6           “(2) WRITTEN AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
7           and officers shall enter into written agreements that  
8           describe the officers’ obligated service requirements  
9           prescribed under paragraph (1) in return for such  
10          appointments, training, promotions, separations, and  
11          retirements as the Secretary considers appropriate.

12          “(b) REPAYMENT FOR FAILURE TO SATISFY RE-  
13          QUIREMENTS.—

14               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require  
15               an officer who fails to meet the service requirements  
16               prescribed under subsection (a)(1) to reimburse the  
17               Secretary in an amount that bears the same ratio to  
18               the total costs of the training provided to that offi-  
19               cer by the Secretary as the unserved portion of ac-  
20               tive duty bears to the total period of active duty the  
21               officer agreed to serve.

22               “(2) OBLIGATION AS DEBT TO UNITED  
23               STATES.—An obligation to reimburse the Secretary  
24               under paragraph (1) shall be considered for all pur-  
25               poses as a debt owed to the United States.

1           “(3) DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY.—A dis-  
2 charge in bankruptcy under title 11 that is entered  
3 less than 5 years after the termination of a written  
4 agreement entered into under subsection (a)(2) does  
5 not discharge the individual signing the agreement  
6 from a debt arising under such agreement.

7           “(c) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF COMPLIANCE.—  
8 The Secretary may waive the service obligation of an offi-  
9 cer who—

10           “(1) becomes unqualified to serve on active  
11 duty in the commissioned officer corps of the Ad-  
12 ministration because of a circumstance not within  
13 the control of that officer; or

14           “(2) is—

15           “(A) not physically qualified for appoint-  
16 ment; and

17           “(B) determined to be unqualified for serv-  
18 ice in the commissioned officer corps of the Ad-  
19 ministration because of a physical or medical  
20 condition that was not the result of the officer’s  
21 own misconduct or grossly negligent conduct.”.

22           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
23 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
24 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for

1 other purposes” (Public Law 107–372) is amended by in-  
2 serting after the item relating to section 215 the following:  
“Sec. 216. Obligated service requirement.”.

3 **SEC. ... 24. TRAINING AND PHYSICAL FITNESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A (33 U.S.C. 3001 et  
5 seq.), as amended by section 213(a), is further amended  
6 by adding at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 217. TRAINING AND PHYSICAL FITNESS.**

8 “(a) TRAINING.—The Secretary may take such meas-  
9 ures as may be necessary to ensure that officers are pre-  
10 pared to carry out their duties in the commissioned officer  
11 corps of the Administration and proficient in the skills  
12 necessary to carry out such duties. Such measures may  
13 include the following:

14 “(1) Carrying out training programs and cor-  
15 respondence courses, including establishing and op-  
16 erating a basic officer training program to provide  
17 initial indoctrination and maritime vocational train-  
18 ing for officer candidates as well as refresher train-  
19 ing, mid-career training, aviation training, and such  
20 other training as the Secretary considers necessary  
21 for officer development and proficiency.

22 “(2) Providing officers and officer candidates  
23 with books and school supplies.

24 “(3) Acquiring such equipment as may be nec-  
25 essary for training and instructional purposes.

1           “(b) **PHYSICAL FITNESS.**—The Secretary shall en-  
2 sure that officers maintain a high physical state of readi-  
3 ness by establishing standards of physical fitness for offi-  
4 cers that are substantially equivalent to those prescribed  
5 for officers in the Coast Guard.”.

6           (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections  
7 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
8 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
9 other purposes” (Public Law 107–372), as amended by  
10 section \_\_23(b), is further amended by inserting after the  
11 item relating to section 216 the following:

          “Sec. 217. Training and physical fitness.”.

12 **SEC. 25. RECRUITING MATERIALS.**

13           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle A (33 U.S.C. 3001 et  
14 seq.), as amended by section 214(a), is further amended  
15 by adding at the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 218. USE OF RECRUITING MATERIALS FOR PUBLIC**  
17 **RELATIONS.**

18           “The Secretary may use for public relations purposes  
19 of the Department of Commerce any advertising materials  
20 developed for use for recruitment and retention of per-  
21 sonnel for the commissioned officer corps of the Adminis-  
22 tration. Any such use shall be under such conditions and  
23 subject to such restrictions as the Secretary shall pre-  
24 scribe.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
2 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
3 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
4 other purposes” (Public Law 107–372), as amended by  
5 section \_\_24(b), is further amended by inserting after the  
6 item relating to section 217 the following:

“Sec. 218. Use of recruiting materials for public relations.”.

7 **SEC. 26. CHARTER VESSEL SAFETY POLICY.**

8 (a) POLICY REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after  
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
10 Commerce shall, acting through the Under Secretary for  
11 Oceans and Atmosphere, develop and implement a charter  
12 vessel safety policy applicable to the acquisition by the Na-  
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of charter  
14 vessel services.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The policy required by subsection  
16 (a) shall address vessel safety, operational safety, and  
17 basic personnel safety requirements applicable to the ves-  
18 sel size, type, and intended use. At a minimum, the policy  
19 shall include the following:

20 (1) Basic vessel safety requirements that ad-  
21 dress stability, egress, fire protection and lifesaving  
22 equipment, hazardous materials, and pollution con-  
23 trol.

1           (2) Personnel safety requirements that address  
2 crew qualifications, medical training and services,  
3 safety briefings and drills, and crew habitability.

4       (c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that  
5 the basic vessel safety requirements and personnel safety  
6 requirements included in the policy required by subsection  
7 (a)—

8           (1) do not exceed the vessel safety requirements  
9 and personnel safety requirements promulgated by  
10 the Secretary of the department in which the Coast  
11 Guard is operating; and

12           (2) to the degree practicable, are consistent  
13 with the requirements described in paragraph (1).

14 **SEC. 27. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**

15       Section 101(21)(C) of title 38, United States Code,  
16 is amended by inserting “in the commissioned officer  
17 corps” before “of the National”.

18           **PART II—PARITY AND RECRUITMENT**

19 **SEC. 31. EDUCATION LOANS.**

20       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et  
21 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 267. EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

23       “(a) AUTHORITY TO REPAY EDUCATION LOANS.—  
24 For the purpose of maintaining adequate numbers of offi-  
25 cers of the commissioned officer corps of the Administra-



1 tion on active duty who have skills required by the com-  
2 missioned officer corps, the Secretary may repay, in the  
3 case of a person described in subsection (b), a loan that—

4           “(1) was used by the person to finance edu-  
5 cation; and

6           “(2) was obtained from a governmental entity,  
7 private financial institution, educational institution,  
8 or other authorized entity.

9           “(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—To be eligible to obtain  
10 a loan repayment under this section, a person must—

11           “(1) satisfy 1 of the requirements specified in  
12 subsection (c);

13           “(2) be fully qualified for, or hold, an appoint-  
14 ment as a commissioned officer in the commissioned  
15 officer corps of the Administration; and

16           “(3) sign a written agreement to serve on active  
17 duty, or, if on active duty, to remain on active duty  
18 for a period in addition to any other incurred active  
19 duty obligation.

20           “(c) ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL REQUIRE-  
21 MENTS.—One of the following academic requirements  
22 must be satisfied for purposes of determining the eligi-  
23 bility of an individual for a loan repayment under this sec-  
24 tion:

1           “(1) The person is fully qualified in a profes-  
2           sion that the Secretary has determined to be nec-  
3           essary to meet identified skill shortages in the com-  
4           missioned officer corps.

5           “(2) The person is enrolled as a full-time stu-  
6           dent in the final year of a course of study at an ac-  
7           credited educational institution (as determined by  
8           the Secretary of Education) leading to a degree in  
9           a profession that will meet identified skill shortages  
10          in the commissioned officer corps.

11          “(d) LOAN REPAYMENTS.—

12           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limits estab-  
13           lished under paragraph (2), a loan repayment under  
14           this section may consist of the payment of the prin-  
15           cipal, interest, and related expenses of a loan ob-  
16           tained by a person described in subsection (b).

17           “(2) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—For each year  
18           of obligated service that a person agrees to serve in  
19           an agreement described in subsection (b)(3), the  
20           Secretary may pay not more than the amount speci-  
21           fied in section 2173(e)(2) of title 10, United States  
22           Code.

23          “(e) ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE OBLIGATION.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person entering into an  
2 agreement described in subsection (b)(3) incurs an  
3 active duty service obligation.

4           “(2) LENGTH OF OBLIGATION DETERMINED  
5 UNDER REGULATIONS.—

6           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
7 subparagraph (B), the length of the obligation  
8 under paragraph (1) shall be determined under  
9 regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

10           “(B) MINIMUM OBLIGATION.—The regula-  
11 tions prescribed under subparagraph (A) may  
12 not provide for a period of obligation of less  
13 than 1 year for each maximum annual amount,  
14 or portion thereof, paid on behalf of the person  
15 for qualified loans.

16           “(3) PERSONS ON ACTIVE DUTY BEFORE EN-  
17 TERING INTO AGREEMENT.—The active duty service  
18 obligation of persons on active duty before entering  
19 into the agreement shall be served after the conclu-  
20 sion of any other obligation incurred under the  
21 agreement.

22           “(f) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO COMPLETE OBLIGA-  
23 TION.—

24           “(1) ALTERNATIVE OBLIGATIONS.—An officer  
25 who is relieved of the officer’s active duty obligation

1 under this section before the completion of that obli-  
2 gation may be given any alternative obligation, at  
3 the discretion of the Secretary.

4 “(2) REPAYMENT.—An officer who does not  
5 complete the period of active duty specified in the  
6 agreement entered into under subsection (b)(3), or  
7 the alternative obligation imposed under paragraph  
8 (1), shall be subject to the repayment provisions  
9 under section 216.

10 “(g) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
11 regulations to carry out this section, including—

12 “(1) standards for qualified loans and author-  
13 ized payees; and

14 “(2) other terms and conditions for the making  
15 of loan repayments.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
17 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
18 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
19 other purposes” (Public Law 107–372) is amended by in-  
20 serting after the item relating to section 266 the following:

“Sec. 267. Education loan repayment program.”.

21 **SEC. \_ 32. INTEREST PAYMENTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et  
23 seq.), as amended by section \_ 31(a), is further amended  
24 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 268. INTEREST PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

2       “(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may pay the inter-  
3 est and any special allowances that accrue on 1 or more  
4 student loans of an eligible officer, in accordance with this  
5 section.

6       “(b) **ELIGIBLE OFFICERS.**—An officer is eligible for  
7 the benefit described in subsection (a) while the officer—

8           “(1) is serving on active duty;

9           “(2) has not completed more than 3 years of  
10 service on active duty;

11           “(3) is the debtor on 1 or more unpaid loans  
12 described in subsection (c); and

13           “(4) is not in default on any such loan.

14       “(c) **STUDENT LOANS.**—The authority to make pay-  
15 ments under subsection (a) may be exercised with respect  
16 to the following loans:

17           “(1) A loan made, insured, or guaranteed under  
18 part B of title IV of the Higher Education Act of  
19 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.).

20           “(2) A loan made under part D of such title  
21 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.).

22           “(3) A loan made under part E of such title  
23 (20 U.S.C. 1087aa et seq.).

24       “(d) **MAXIMUM BENEFIT.**—Interest and any special  
25 allowance may be paid on behalf of an officer under this

1 section for any of the 36 consecutive months during which  
2 the officer is eligible under subsection (b).

3 “(e) FUNDS FOR PAYMENTS.—The Secretary may  
4 use amounts appropriated for the pay and allowances of  
5 personnel of the commissioned officer corps of the Admin-  
6 istration for payments under this section.

7 “(f) COORDINATION WITH SECRETARY OF EDU-  
8 CATION.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consult  
10 with the Secretary of Education regarding the ad-  
11 ministration of this section.

12 “(2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Secretary  
13 shall transfer to the Secretary of Education the  
14 funds necessary—

15 “(A) to pay interest and special allowances  
16 on student loans under this section (in accord-  
17 ance with sections 428(o), 455(l), and 464(j) of  
18 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
19 1078(o), 1087c(l), and 1087dd(j)); and

20 “(B) to reimburse the Secretary of Edu-  
21 cation for any reasonable administrative costs  
22 incurred by the Secretary in coordinating the  
23 program under this section with the administra-  
24 tion of the student loan programs under parts  
25 B, D, and E of title IV of the Higher Edu-

1            eation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.,  
2            1087a et seq., 1087aa et seq.).

3            “(g) SPECIAL ALLOWANCE DEFINED.—In this sec-  
4            tion, the term ‘special allowance’ means a special allow-  
5            ance that is payable under section 438 of the Higher Edu-  
6            cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–1).”.

7            (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

8            (1) Section 428(o) of the Higher Education Act  
9            of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078(o)) is amended—

10            (A) by striking the subsection heading and  
11            inserting “ARMED FORCES AND NOAA COM-  
12            MISSIONED OFFICER CORPS STUDENT LOAN  
13            INTEREST PAYMENT PROGRAMS”; and

14            (B) in paragraph (1)—

15            (i) by inserting “or section 264 of the  
16            National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-  
17            istration Commissioned Officer Corps Act  
18            of 2002” after “Code,”; and

19            (ii) by inserting “or an officer in the  
20            commissioned officer corps of the National  
21            Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
22            respectively,” after “Armed Forces”.

23            (2) Sections 455(l) and 464(j) of the Higher  
24            Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(l) and  
25            1087dd(j)) are each amended—

1 (A) by striking the subsection heading and  
2 inserting “ARMED FORCES AND NOAA COM-  
3 MISSIONED OFFICER CORPS STUDENT LOAN  
4 INTEREST PAYMENT PROGRAMS”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) by inserting “or section 264 of the  
7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-  
8 istration Commissioned Officer Corps Act  
9 of 2002” after “Code,”; and

10 (ii) by inserting “or an officer in the  
11 commissioned officer corps of the National  
12 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
13 respectively” after “Armed Forces”.

14 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
15 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
16 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
17 other purposes” (Public Law 107–372), as amended by  
18 section \_\_31(b), is further amended by inserting after the  
19 item relating to section 267 the following:

“Sec. 268. Interest payment program.”.

20 **SEC. \_\_33. STUDENT PRE-COMMISSIONING PROGRAM.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et  
22 seq.), as amended by section \_\_32(a), is further amended  
23 by adding at the end the following:



1 **“SEC. 269. STUDENT PRE-COMMISSIONING EDUCATION AS-**  
2 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSIST-  
4 ANCE.—For the purpose of maintaining adequate numbers  
5 of officers of the commissioned officer corps of the Admin-  
6 istration on active duty, the Secretary may provide finan-  
7 cial assistance to a person described in subsection (b) for  
8 expenses of the person while the person is pursuing on  
9 a full-time basis at an accredited educational institution  
10 (as determined by the Secretary of Education) a program  
11 of education approved by the Secretary that leads to—

12 “(1) a baccalaureate degree in not more than 5  
13 academic years; or

14 “(2) a postbaccalaureate degree.

15 “(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person is eligible to ob-  
17 tain financial assistance under subsection (a) if the  
18 person—

19 “(A) is enrolled on a full-time basis in a  
20 program of education referred to in subsection  
21 (a) at any educational institution described in  
22 such subsection;

23 “(B) meets all of the requirements for ac-  
24 ceptance into the commissioned officer corps of  
25 the Administration except for the completion of  
26 a baccalaureate degree; and

1           “(C) enters into a written agreement with  
2           the Secretary described in paragraph (2).

3           “(2) AGREEMENT.—A written agreement re-  
4           ferred to in paragraph (1)(C) is an agreement be-  
5           tween the person and the Secretary in which the  
6           person agrees—

7           “(A) to accept an appointment as an offi-  
8           cer, if tendered; and

9           “(B) upon completion of the person’s edu-  
10          cational program, agrees to serve on active  
11          duty, immediately after appointment, for—

12           “(i) up to 3 years if the person re-  
13          ceived less than 3 years of assistance; and

14           “(ii) up to 5 years if the person re-  
15          ceived at least 3 years of assistance.

16          “(e) QUALIFYING EXPENSES.—Expenses for which  
17          financial assistance may be provided under subsection (a)  
18          are the following:

19           “(1) Tuition and fees charged by the edu-  
20          cational institution involved.

21           “(2) The cost of books.

22           “(3) In the case of a program of education  
23          leading to a baccalaureate degree, laboratory ex-  
24          penses.

1           “(4) Such other expenses as the Secretary con-  
2           siders appropriate.

3           “(d) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall  
4           prescribe the amount of financial assistance provided to  
5           a person under subsection (a), which may not exceed the  
6           amount specified in section 2173(e)(2) of title 10, United  
7           States Code, for each year of obligated service that a per-  
8           son agrees to serve in an agreement described in sub-  
9           section (b)(2).

10          “(e) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—Financial assist-  
11          ance may be provided to a person under subsection (a)  
12          for not more than 5 consecutive academic years.

13          “(f) SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.—

14                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who receives fi-  
15                 nancial assistance under subsection (a) shall be enti-  
16                 tled to a monthly subsistence allowance at a rate  
17                 prescribed under paragraph (2) for the duration of  
18                 the period for which the person receives such finan-  
19                 cial assistance.

20                 “(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—The Sec-  
21                 retary shall prescribe monthly rates for subsistence  
22                 allowance provided under paragraph (1), which shall  
23                 be equal to the amount specified in section 2144(a)  
24                 of title 10, United States Code.

25          “(g) INITIAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—

1           “(1) TRAINING.—The Secretary may prescribe  
2 a sum which shall be credited to each person who re-  
3 ceives financial assistance under subsection (a) to  
4 cover the cost of the person’s initial clothing and  
5 equipment issue.

6           “(2) APPOINTMENT.—Upon completion of the  
7 program of education for which a person receives fi-  
8 nancial assistance under subsection (a) and accept-  
9 ance of appointment in the commissioned officer  
10 corps of the Administration, the person may be  
11 issued a subsequent clothing allowance equivalent to  
12 that normally provided to a newly appointed officer.

13           “(h) TERMINATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

14           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall termi-  
15 nate the assistance provided to a person under this  
16 section if—

17           “(A) the Secretary accepts a request by  
18 the person to be released from an agreement  
19 described in subsection (b)(2);

20           “(B) the misconduct of the person results  
21 in a failure to complete the period of active  
22 duty required under the agreement; or

23           “(C) the person fails to fulfill any term or  
24 condition of the agreement.

1           “(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary may re-  
2           quire a person who receives assistance described in  
3           subsection (e), (f), or (g) under an agreement en-  
4           tered into under subsection (b)(1)(C) to reimburse  
5           the Secretary in an amount that bears the same  
6           ratio to the total costs of the assistance provided to  
7           that person as the unserved portion of active duty  
8           bears to the total period of active duty the officer  
9           agreed to serve under the agreement.

10           “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the  
11           service obligation of a person through an agreement  
12           entered into under subsection (b)(1)(C) if the per-  
13           son—

14                   “(A) becomes unqualified to serve on active  
15                   duty in the commissioned officer corps of the  
16                   Administration because of a circumstance not  
17                   within the control of that person; or

18                   “(B) is—

19                           “(i) not physically qualified for ap-  
20                           pointment; and

21                           “(ii) determined to be unqualified for  
22                           service in the commissioned officer corps of  
23                           the Administration because of a physical or  
24                           medical condition that was not the result

1                   of the person's own misconduct or grossly  
2                   negligent conduct.

3                   “(4) OBLIGATION AS DEBT TO UNITED  
4 STATES.—An obligation to reimburse the Secretary  
5 imposed under paragraph (2) is, for all purposes, a  
6 debt owed to the United States.

7                   “(5) DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY.—A dis-  
8 charge in bankruptcy under title 11, United States  
9 Code, that is entered less than 5 years after the ter-  
10 mination of a written agreement entered into under  
11 subsection (b)(1)(C) does not discharge the person  
12 signing the agreement from a debt arising under  
13 such agreement or under paragraph (2).

14                  “(i) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate  
15 such regulations and orders as the Secretary considers ap-  
16 propriate to carry out this section.”.

17                  (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
18 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
19 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
20 other purposes” (Public Law 107-372), as amended by  
21 section \_\_32(e), is further amended by inserting after the  
22 item relating to section 268 the following:

“Sec. 269. Student pre-commissioning education assistance program.”.

23 **SEC. \_\_34. LIMITATION ON EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

24                  (a) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, beginning with  
25 fiscal year 2013, the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure

1 that the total amount expended by the Secretary under  
2 section 267 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
3 ministration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (as  
4 added by section \_\_31(a)), section 268 of such Act (as  
5 added by section \_\_32(a)), and section 269 of such Act  
6 (as added by section \_\_33(a)) does not exceed the amount  
7 by which—

8 (1) the total amount the Secretary would pay in  
9 that fiscal year to officer candidates under section  
10 203(f)(1) of title 37, United States Code (as added  
11 by section 246(d)), if such section entitled officers  
12 candidates to pay at monthly rates equal to the  
13 basic pay of a commissioned officer in the pay grade  
14 O-1 with less than 2 years of service; exceeds

15 (2) the total amount the Secretary actually  
16 pays in that fiscal year to officer candidates under  
17 section 203(f)(1) of such title (as so added).

18 (b) OFFICER CANDIDATE DEFINED.—In this section,  
19 the term “officer candidate” has the meaning given the  
20 term in section 212 of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
21 pheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of  
22 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3002), as added by section \_\_56(e).

1 **SEC. 35. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF**  
2 **TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, AND EXTEN-**  
3 **SION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES APPLICABLE**  
4 **TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO**  
5 **COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS.**

6 (a) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF  
7 TITLE 10.—Section 261(a) (33 U.S.C. 3071(a)) is amend-  
8 ed—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through  
10 (16) as paragraphs (20) through (23), respectively;

11 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through  
12 (12) as paragraphs (12) through (17), respectively;

13 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through  
14 (6) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;

15 (4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(4) Section 771, relating to unauthorized  
18 wearing of uniforms.

19 “(5) Section 774, relating to wearing religious  
20 apparel while in uniform.

21 “(6) Section 982, relating to service on State  
22 and local juries.

23 “(7) Section 1031, relating to administration of  
24 oaths.”;

25 (5) by inserting after paragraph (10), as redес-  
26 igned, the following:



1           “(11) Chapter 58, relating to the Benefits and  
2           Services for members being separated or recently  
3           separated.”; and

4           (6) by inserting after paragraph (17), as reded-  
5           ignated, the following:

6           “(18) Subchapter I of chapter 88, relating to  
7           Military Family Programs.

8           “(19) Section 2005, relating to advanced edu-  
9           cation assistance, active duty agreements, and reim-  
10          bursement requirements.”.

11         (b) EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES.—

12           (1) NOTARIAL SERVICES.—Section 1044a of  
13          title 10, United States Code, is amended—

14                 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking  
15                 “armed forces” and inserting “uniformed serv-  
16                 ices”; and

17                 (B) in subsection (b)(4), by striking  
18                 “armed forces” both places it appears and in-  
19                 serting “uniformed services”.

20           (2) ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR  
21          PROGRAMS SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMI-  
22          LIES.—Section 1588 of such title is amended—

23                 (A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking  
24                 “armed forces” and inserting “uniformed serv-  
25                 ices”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
2 subsection:

3 “(g) SECRETARY CONCERNED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF  
4 SERVICES FOR PROGRAMS SERVING MEMBERS OF NOAA  
5 AND THEIR FAMILIES.—For purposes of the acceptance  
6 of services described in subsection (a)(3), the term ‘Sec-  
7 retary concerned’ in subsection (a) shall include the Sec-  
8 retary of Commerce with respect to members of the Na-  
9 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.”.

10 (3) CAPSTONE COURSE FOR NEWLY SELECTED  
11 FLAG OFFICERS.—Section 2153 of such title is  
12 amended—

13 (A) in subsection (a)—

14 (i) by inserting “or the commissioned  
15 corps of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
16 pheric Administration” after “in the case  
17 of the Navy”; and

18 (ii) by striking “other armed forces”  
19 and inserting “other uniformed services”;  
20 and

21 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “or  
22 the Secretary of Commerce, as applicable,”  
23 after “the Secretary of Defense”.

1 **SEC. 36. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF**  
2 **TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et  
4 seq.) is amended by inserting after section 261 the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 261A. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF**  
7 **TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE.**

8 “(a) PROVISIONS MADE APPLICABLE TO COMMIS-  
9 SIONED OFFICER CORPS.—The provisions of law applica-  
10 ble to the Armed Forces under the following provisions  
11 of title 37, United States Code, shall apply to the commis-  
12 sioned officer corps of the Administration:

13 “(1) Section 324, relating to accession bonuses  
14 for new officers in critical skills.

15 “(2) Section 403(f)(3), relating to prescribing  
16 regulations defining the terms ‘field duty’ and ‘sea  
17 duty’.

18 “(3) Section 403(l), relating to temporary con-  
19 tinuation of housing allowance for dependents of  
20 members dying on active duty.

21 “(4) Section 414(a)(2), relating to personal  
22 money allowance while serving as Director of the  
23 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
24 Commissioned Officer Corps.

25 “(5) Section 488, relating to allowances for re-  
26 cruiting expenses.

1           “(6) Section 495, relating to allowances for fi-  
2           neral honors duty.

3           “(b) REFERENCES.—The authority vested by title 37,  
4 United States Code, in the ‘military departments’, ‘the  
5 Secretary concerned’, or ‘the Secretary of Defense’ with  
6 respect to the provisions of law referred to in subsection  
7 (a) shall be exercised, with respect to the commissioned  
8 officer corps of the Administration, by the Secretary of  
9 Commerce or the Secretary’s designee.”.

10          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
11 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
12 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
13 other purposes” (Public Law 107–372) is amended by in-  
14 serting after the item relating to section 261 the following:

“Sec. 261A. Applicability of certain provisions of title 37, United States  
Code.”.

15 **SEC. \_\_37. LEGION OF MERIT AWARD.**

16          Section 1121 of title 10, United States Code, is  
17 amended by striking “armed forces” and inserting “uni-  
18 formed services”.

19 **SEC. \_\_38. PROHIBITION ON RETALIATORY PERSONNEL AC-**  
20 **TIONS.**

21          (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 261 (33  
22 U.S.C. 3071), as amended by section \_\_35, is further  
23 amended—

1           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through  
2           (23) as paragraphs (9) through (24), respectively;  
3           and

4           (2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-  
5           lowing:

6           “(8) Section 1034, relating to protected com-  
7           munications and prohibition of retaliatory personnel  
8           actions.”.

9           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of  
10          such section is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
11          lowing: “For purposes of paragraph (8) of subsection (a),  
12          the term ‘Inspector General’ in section 1034 of such title  
13          10 shall mean the Inspector General of the Department  
14          of Commerce.”.

15          (c) REGULATIONS.—Such section is further amended  
16          by adding at the end the following:

17          “(c) REGULATIONS REGARDING PROTECTED COM-  
18          MUNICATIONS AND PROHIBITION OF RETALIATORY PER-  
19          SONNEL ACTIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate regu-  
20          lations to carry out the application of section 1034 of title  
21          10, United States Code, to the commissioned officer corps  
22          of the Administration, including by promulgating such ad-  
23          ministrative procedures for investigation and appeal with-  
24          in the commissioned officer corps as the Secretary con-  
25          siders appropriate.”.

1 **SEC. 39. PENALTIES FOR WEARING UNIFORM WITHOUT**  
2 **AUTHORITY.**

3 Section 702 of title 18, United States Code, is  
4 amended by striking “Service or any” and inserting “Serv-  
5 ice, the commissioned officer corps of the National Oee-  
6 anie and Atmospheric Administration, or any”.

7 **SEC. 40. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF COM-**  
8 **PETITIVE SERVICE LAW.**

9 Section 3304(f) of title 5, United States Code, is  
10 amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and mem-  
12 bers of the commissioned officer corps of the Na-  
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (or  
14 its predecessor organization the Coast and Geodetic  
15 Survey) separated from such uniformed service”  
16 after “separated from the armed forces”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “or veteran”  
18 and inserting “, veteran, or member”; and

19 (3) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and mem-  
20 bers of the commissioned officer corps of the Na-  
21 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (or  
22 its predecessor organization the Coast and Geodetic  
23 Survey) separated from such uniformed service”  
24 after “separated from the armed forces”.

1 **SEC. \_\_41. EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.**

2 Section 4303(16) of title 38, United States Code, is  
3 amended by inserting “the commissioned officer corps of  
4 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,”  
5 after “Public Health Service.”

6 **SEC. 42. TREATMENT OF COMMISSION IN COMMISSIONED**  
7 **OFFICER CORPS FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN**  
8 **HIRING DECISIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et  
10 seq.), as amended by this subtitle, is further amended by  
11 adding at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 269A. TREATMENT OF COMMISSION IN COMMIS-**  
13 **SIONED OFFICER CORPS AS EMPLOYMENT IN**  
14 **ADMINISTRATION FOR PURPOSES OF CER-**  
15 **TAIN HIRING DECISIONS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which the Sec-  
17 retary accepts an application for a position of employment  
18 with the Administration and limits consideration of appli-  
19 cations for such position to applications submitted by indi-  
20 viduals serving in a career or career-conditional position  
21 in the competitive service within the Administration, the  
22 Secretary shall deem an officer who has served as an offi-  
23 cer in the commissioned officer corps for at least 3 years  
24 to be serving in a career or career-conditional position in  
25 the competitive service within the Administration for pur-  
26 poses of such limitation.





1 (b) CANDIDATES DESCRIBED.—A candidate de-  
 2 scribed in this subsection is a current or former member  
 3 of the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic  
 4 and Atmospheric Administration who—

5 (1) fulfilled his or her obligated service require-  
 6 ment under section 216 of the National Oceanic and  
 7 Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer  
 8 Corps Act of 2002, as added by section \_\_23;

9 (2) if no longer a member of the commissioned  
 10 officer corps of the Administration, was discharged  
 11 or released therefrom ~~as part of a disciplinary ac-~~  
 12 ~~tion;~~ and *under conditions other than dishonorable*

13 (3) has been separated or released from service  
 14 in the commissioned officer corps of the Administra-  
 15 tion for a period of not more than 5 years.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with  
 17 respect to appointments made in fiscal year 2016 and in  
 18 each fiscal year thereafter.

19 **PART III—APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTION OF**  
 20 **OFFICERS**

21 **SEC. 51. APPOINTMENTS.**

22 (a) ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 221 (33 U.S.C.  
 24 3021) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 221. ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINT-**  
2 **MENTS.**

3 **“(a) ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.—**

4 **“(1) GRADES.—**

5 **“(A) IN GENERAL.—**Except as provided in  
6 subparagraph (B), an original appointment of  
7 an officer may be made in such grades as may  
8 be appropriate for—

9 **“(i) the qualification, experience, and**  
10 **length of service of the appointee; and**

11 **“(ii) the commissioned officer corps of**  
12 **the Administration.**

13 **“(B) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER CAN-**  
14 **DIDATES.—**

15 **“(i) LIMITATION ON GRADE.—**An  
16 original appointment of an officer can-  
17 didate, upon graduation from the basic of-  
18 ficer training program of the commissioned  
19 officer corps of the Administration, may  
20 not be made in any other grade than en-  
21 sign.

22 **“(ii) RANK.—**Officer candidates re-  
23 ceiving appointments as ensigns upon  
24 graduation from basic officer training pro-  
25 gram shall take rank according to their

1                   proficiency as shown by the order of their  
2                   merit at date of graduation.

3                   “(2) SOURCE OF APPOINTMENTS.—An original  
4                   appointment may be made from among the fol-  
5                   lowing:

6                   “(A) Graduates of the basic officer train-  
7                   ing program of the commissioned officer corps  
8                   of the Administration.

9                   “(B) Graduates of the military service  
10                  academies of the United States who otherwise  
11                  meet the academic standards for enrollment in  
12                  the training program described in subparagraph  
13                  (A).

14                  “(C) Graduates of the maritime academies  
15                  of the States who—

16                         “(i) otherwise meet the academic  
17                         standards for enrollment in the training  
18                         program described in subparagraph (A);

19                         “(ii) completed at least 3 years of  
20                         regimented training while at a maritime  
21                         academy of a State; and

22                         “(iii) obtained an unlimited tonnage  
23                         or unlimited horsepower Merchant Mariner  
24                         Credential from the United States Coast  
25                         Guard.

1           “(D) Licensed officers of the United States  
2 merchant marine who have served 2 or more  
3 years aboard a vessel of the United States in  
4 the capacity of a licensed officer, who otherwise  
5 meet the academic standards for enrollment in  
6 the training program described in subparagraph  
7 (A).

8           “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9           “(A) MARITIME ACADEMIES OF THE  
10 STATES.—The term ‘maritime academies of the  
11 States’ means the following:

12           “(i) California Maritime Academy,  
13 Vallejo, California.

14           “(ii) Great Lakes Maritime Academy,  
15 Traverse City, Michigan.

16           “(iii) Maine Maritime Academy,  
17 Castine, Maine.

18           “(iv) Massachusetts Maritime Acad-  
19 emy, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts.

20           “(v) State University of New York  
21 Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, New  
22 York.

23           “(vi) Texas A&M Maritime Academy,  
24 Galveston, Texas.

1                   “(B) MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES OF  
2 THE UNITED STATES.—The term ‘military serv-  
3 ice academies of the United States’ means the  
4 following:

5                   “(i) The United States Military Acad-  
6 emy, West Point, New York.

7                   “(ii) The United States Naval Acad-  
8 emy, Annapolis, Maryland.

9                   “(iii) The United States Air Force  
10 Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

11                   “(iv) The United States Coast Guard  
12 Academy, New London, Connecticut.

13                   “(v) The United States Merchant Ma-  
14 rine Academy, Kings Point, New York.

15                   “(b) REAPPOINTMENT.—

16                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
17 graph (2), an individual who previously served in the  
18 commissioned officer corps of the Administration  
19 may be appointed by the Secretary to the grade the  
20 individual held prior to separation.

21                   “(2) REAPPOINTMENTS TO HIGHER GRADES.—  
22 An appointment under paragraph (1) to a position  
23 of importance and responsibility designated under  
24 section 228 may only be made by the President.

1           “(e) QUALIFICATIONS.—An appointment under sub-  
2 section (a) or (b) may not be given to an individual until  
3 the individual’s mental, moral, physical, and professional  
4 fitness to perform the duties of an officer has been estab-  
5 lished under such regulations as the Secretary shall pre-  
6 scribe.

7           “(d) PRECEDENCE OF APPOINTEES.—Appointees  
8 under this section shall take precedence in the grade to  
9 which appointed in accordance with the dates of their com-  
10 missions as commissioned officers in such grade. Ap-  
11 pointees whose dates of commission are the same shall  
12 take precedence with each other as the Secretary shall de-  
13 termine.

14           “(e) INTER-SERVICE TRANSFERS.—For inter-service  
15 transfers (as described in the Department of Defense Di-  
16 rective 1300.4 (dated December 27, 2006)) the Secretary  
17 shall—

18                   “(1) coordinate with the Secretary of Defense  
19 and the Secretary of the Department in which the  
20 Coast Guard is operating to promote and streamline  
21 inter-service transfers;

22                   “(2) give preference to such inter-service trans-  
23 fers for recruitment purposes as determined appro-  
24 priate by the Secretary; and

1           “(3) reappoint such inter-service transfers to  
2           the equivalent grade in the commissioned officer  
3           corps.”.

4           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
5           tions in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to au-  
6           thorize the Hydrographic Service Improvement Act  
7           of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-  
8           372) is amended by striking the item relating to sec-  
9           tion 221 and inserting the following:

          “Sec. 221. Original appointments and reappointments.”.

10 **SEC. 52. PERSONNEL BOARDS.**

11           Section 222 (33 U.S.C. 3022) is amended to read as  
12 follows:

13 **“SEC. 222. PERSONNEL BOARDS.**

14           “(a) CONVENING.—Not less frequently than once  
15 each year and at such other times as the Secretary deter-  
16 mines necessary, the Secretary shall convene a personnel  
17 board.

18           “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

19           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A board convened under  
20 subsection (a) shall consist of 5 or more officers who  
21 are serving in or above the permanent grade of the  
22 officers under consideration by the board.

23           “(2) RETIRED OFFICERS.—Officers on the re-  
24 tired list may be recalled to serve on such personnel  
25 boards as the Secretary considers necessary.

1           “(3) NO MEMBERSHIP ON 2 SUCCESSIVE  
2           BOARDS.—No officer may be a member of 2 succes-  
3           sive personnel boards convened to consider officers  
4           of the same grade for promotion or separation.

5           “(c) DUTIES.—Each personnel board shall—

6           “(1) recommend to the Secretary such changes  
7           as may be necessary to correct any erroneous posi-  
8           tion on the lineal list that was caused by administra-  
9           tive error; and

10           “(2) make selections and recommendations to  
11           the Secretary and the President for the appoint-  
12           ment, promotion, involuntary separation, continu-  
13           ation, and involuntary retirement of officers in the  
14           commissioned officer corps of the Administration as  
15           prescribed in this title.

16           “(d) ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS NOT ACCEPT-  
17           ABLE.—If any recommendation by a board convened  
18           under subsection (a) is not accepted by the Secretary or  
19           the President, the board shall make such further rec-  
20           ommendations as the Secretary or the President consider  
21           appropriate.”.

22   **SEC. 53. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.**

23           Section 226 (33 U.S.C. 3026) is amended—

24           (1) by striking “Appointments” and inserting  
25           the following:



1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Appointments”; and

2 (2) by adding at the end the following:

3 “(b) DELEGATION OF APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY.—

4 If the President delegates authority to the Secretary to  
5 make appointments under this section, the President shall,  
6 during a period in which the position of the Secretary is  
7 vacant, delegate such authority to the Deputy Secretary  
8 of Commerce or the Under Secretary for Oceans and At-  
9 mosphere during such period.”.

10 **SEC. 54. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF**  
11 **MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS.**

12 Section 228(e) (33 U.S.C. 3028(e)) is amended—

13 (1) in the fourth sentence, by striking “Direc-  
14 tor” and inserting “Assistant Administrator”; and

15 (2) in the heading, by inserting “ASSISTANT  
16 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE” before “OFFICE”.

17 **SEC. 55. TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 229 (33 U.S.C. 3029) is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 229. TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS.**

21 “(a) APPOINTMENTS BY PRESIDENT.—Temporary  
22 appointments in the grade of ensign, lieutenant junior  
23 grade, or lieutenant may be made by the President.

24 “(b) TERMINATION.—A temporary appointment to a  
25 position under subsection (a) shall terminate upon ap-

1 proval of a permanent appointment for such position made  
2 by the President.

3 “(c) ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.—Appointees under  
4 subsection (a) shall take precedence in the grade to which  
5 appointed in accordance with the dates of their appoint-  
6 ments as officers in such grade. The order of precedence  
7 of appointees who are appointed on the same date shall  
8 be determined by the Secretary.

9 “(d) ANY ONE GRADE.—When determined by the  
10 Secretary to be in the best interest of the commissioned  
11 officer corps, officers in any permanent grade may be tem-  
12 porarily promoted one grade by the President. Any such  
13 temporary promotion terminates upon the transfer of the  
14 officer to a new assignment.

15 “(e) DELEGATION OF APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY.—  
16 If the President delegates authority to the Secretary to  
17 make appointments under this section, the President shall,  
18 during a period in which the position of the Secretary is  
19 vacant, delegate such authority to the Deputy Secretary  
20 of Commerce or the Under Secretary for Oceans and At-  
21 mosphere during such period.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
23 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
24 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
25 other purposes” (Public Law 107–372) is amended by

1 striking the item relating to section 229 and inserting the  
2 following:

“Sec. 229. Temporary appointments.”.

3 **SEC. 56. OFFICER CANDIDATES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B (33 U.S.C. 3021 et  
5 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 234. OFFICER CANDIDATES.**

7 “(a) DETERMINATION OF NUMBER.—The Secretary  
8 shall determine the number of appointments of officer can-  
9 didates.

10 “(b) APPOINTMENT.—Appointment of officer can-  
11 didates shall be made under regulations which the Sec-  
12 retary shall prescribe, including regulations with respect  
13 to determining age limits, methods of selection of officer  
14 candidates, term of service as an officer candidate before  
15 graduation from the program, and all other matters af-  
16 fecting such appointment.

17 “(c) DISMISSAL.—The Secretary may dismiss from  
18 the basic officer training program of the Administration  
19 any officer candidate who, during the officer candidate’s  
20 term as an officer candidate, the Secretary considers un-  
21 satisfactory in either academics or conduct, or not adapted  
22 for a career in the commissioned officer corps of the Ad-  
23 ministration. Officer candidates shall be subject to rules  
24 governing discipline prescribed by the Director of the Na-

1 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commis-  
2 sioned Officer Corps.

3 “(d) AGREEMENT.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each officer candidate  
5 shall sign an agreement with the Secretary in ac-  
6 cordance with section 216(a)(2) regarding the officer  
7 candidate’s term of service in the commissioned offi-  
8 cer corps of the Administration.

9 “(2) ELEMENTS.—An agreement signed by an  
10 officer candidate under paragraph (1) shall provide  
11 that the officer candidate agrees to the following:

12 “(A) That the officer candidate will com-  
13 plete the course of instruction at the basic offi-  
14 cer training program of the Administration.

15 “(B) That upon graduation from the such  
16 program, the officer candidate—

17 “(i) will accept an appointment, if  
18 tendered, as an officer; and

19 “(ii) will serve on active duty for at  
20 least 4 years immediately after such ap-  
21 pointment.

22 “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
23 regulations to carry out this section. Such regulations  
24 shall include—

1           “(1) standards for determining what constitutes  
2           a breach of an agreement signed under such sub-  
3           section (d)(1); and

4           “(2) procedures for determining whether such a  
5           breach has occurred.

6           “(f) REPAYMENT.—An officer candidate or former  
7           officer candidate who does not fulfill the terms of the obli-  
8           gation to serve as specified under section (d) shall be sub-  
9           ject to the repayment provisions of section 216(b).”.

10          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
11          in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
12          Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
13          other purposes” (Public Law 107–372) is amended by in-  
14          serting after the item relating to section 233 the following:  
            “Sec. 234. Officer candidates.”.

15          (c) OFFICER CANDIDATE DEFINED.—Section 212(b)  
16          (33 U.S.C. 3002(b)) is amended—

17                 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through  
18                 (6) as paragraphs (5) through (7), respectively; and

19                 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
20                 lowing:

21                 “(4) OFFICER CANDIDATE.—The term ‘officer  
22                 candidate’ means an individual who is enrolled in the  
23                 basic officer training program of the Administration  
24                 and is under consideration for appointment as an of-  
25                 ficer under section 221(a)(2)(A).”.

1 (d) PAY FOR OFFICER CANDIDATES.—Section 203 of  
2 title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
3 end the following:

4 “(f)(1) An officer candidate enrolled in the basic offi-  
5 cer training program of the commissioned officer corps of  
6 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is  
7 entitled, while participating in such program, to monthly  
8 officer candidate pay at monthly rate equal to the basic  
9 pay of an enlisted member in the pay grade E-5 with less  
10 than 2 years service.

11 “(2) An individual who graduates from such program  
12 shall receive credit for the time spent participating in such  
13 program as if such time were time served while on active  
14 duty as a commissioned officer. If the individual does not  
15 graduate from such program, such time shall not be con-  
16 sidered creditable for active duty or pay.”.

17 **SEC. 57. PROCUREMENT OF PERSONNEL.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B (33 U.S.C. 3021 et  
19 seq.), as amended by section 56(a), is further amended  
20 by adding at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 235. PROCUREMENT OF PERSONNEL.**

22 “The Secretary may make such expenditures as the  
23 Secretary considers necessary in order to obtain recruits  
24 for the commissioned officer corps of the Administration,  
25 including advertising.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
2 in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the  
3 Hydrographic Service Improvement Act of 1998, and for  
4 other purposes” (Public Law 107–372), as amended by  
5 section \_\_56(b), is further amended by inserting after the  
6 item relating to section 234 the following:

“235. Procurement of personnel.”.

7 **PART IV—SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT OF**  
8 **OFFICERS**

9 **SEC. 61. INVOLUNTARY RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION.**

10 Section 241 (33 U.S.C. 3041) is amended by adding  
11 at the end the following:

12 “(d) DEFERMENT OF RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION  
13 FOR MEDICAL REASONS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines  
15 that the evaluation of the medical condition of an of-  
16 ficer requires hospitalization or medical observation  
17 that cannot be completed with confidence in a man-  
18 ner consistent with the officer’s well being before the  
19 date on which the officer would otherwise be re-  
20 quired to retire or be separated under this section,  
21 the Secretary may defer the retirement or separation  
22 of the officer.

23 “(2) CONSENT REQUIRED.—A deferment may  
24 only be made with the written consent of the officer  
25 involved. If the officer does not provide written con-

1 sent to the deferment, the officer shall be retired or  
2 separated as scheduled.

3 “(3) LIMITATION.—A deferral of retirement or  
4 separation under this subsection may not extend for  
5 more than 30 days after completion of the evalua-  
6 tion requiring hospitalization or medical observa-  
7 tion.”.

8 **SEC. \_\_\_62. SEPARATION PAY.**

9 Section 242 (33 U.S.C. 3042) is amended by adding  
10 at the end the following:

11 “(d) EXCEPTION.—An officer discharged for twice  
12 failing selection for promotion to the next higher grade  
13 is not entitled to separation pay under this section if the  
14 officer—

15 “(1) expresses a desire not to be selected for  
16 promotion; or

17 “(2) requests removal from the list of select-  
18 ees.”.

19 **Subtitle C—Hydrographic Services**

20 **SEC. \_\_\_71. REAUTHORIZATION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERV-**  
21 **ICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.**

22 (a) REAUTHORIZATIONS.—Section 306 of the Hydro-  
23 graphic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C.  
24 892d) is amended—



1           (1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by  
2 striking “There are” and inserting the following:

3           “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are”;

4           (2) in subsection (a) (as designated by para-  
5 graph (1))—

6           (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “sur-  
7 veys—” and all that follows through the end of  
8 the paragraph and inserting “surveys,  
9 \$70,814,000 for each of fiscal years 2016  
10 through 2020.”;

11           (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “ves-  
12 sels—” and all that follows through the end of  
13 the paragraph and inserting “vessels,  
14 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016  
15 through 2020.”;

16           (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Admin-  
17 istration—” and all that follows through the  
18 end of the paragraph and inserting “Adminis-  
19 tration, \$29,932,000 for each of fiscal years  
20 2016 through 2020.”;

21           (D) in paragraph (4), by striking “title—  
22 ” and all that follows through the end of the  
23 paragraph and inserting “title, \$26,800,000 for  
24 each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”; and

1           (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “title—  
2           ” and all that follows through the end of the  
3           paragraph and inserting “title, \$30,564,000 for  
4           each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”; and  
5           (3) by adding at the end the following:

6           “(b) ARCTIC PROGRAMS.—Of the amount authorized  
7 by this section for each fiscal year—

8           “(1) \$10,000,000 is authorized for use—

9           “(A) to acquire hydrographic data;

10           “(B) to provide hydrographic services;

11           “(C) to conduct coastal change analyses  
12 necessary to ensure safe navigation;

13           “(D) to improve the management of coast-  
14 al change in the Arctic; and

15           “(E) to reduce risks of harm to Alaska  
16 Native subsistence and coastal communities as-  
17 sociated with increased international maritime  
18 traffic; and

19           “(2) \$2,000,000 is authorized for use to ac-  
20 quire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic  
21 services in the Arctic necessary to delineate the  
22 United States extended Continental Shelf.”.

23           (b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR  
24 SURVEYS.—Section 306 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d) is  
25 further amended by adding at the end the following:

1       “(c) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES  
2 FOR SURVEYS.—Of amounts authorized by this section for  
3 each fiscal year for contract hydrographic surveys, not  
4 more than 5 percent is authorized for administrative costs  
5 associated with contract management.”.