

Cruz - 11 (as modified)

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To modify a provision requiring a study on the operational availability of Coast Guard aircraft and strategy for Coast Guard aviation.

**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

Viz:

- 1 Strike section 243 and insert the following:
- 2 **SEC. 243. STUDY ON THE OPERATIONAL AVAILABILITY OF**
- 3 **COAST GUARD AIRCRAFT AND STRATEGY**
- 4 **FOR COAST GUARD AVIATION.**
- 5 (a) STUDY.—
- 6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
- 7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
- 8 troller General of the United States shall commence
- 9 a study on the operational availability of Coast
- 10 Guard aircraft.

1           (2) ELEMENTS.—The study required by para-  
2 graph (1) shall include the following:

3           (A) An assessment of —

4           (i) the extent to which the fixed-wing  
5 and rotary-wing aircraft of the Coast  
6 Guard have met annual operational avail-  
7 ability targets in recent years;

8           (ii) the challenges the Coast Guard  
9 may face with respect to such aircraft  
10 meeting operational availability targets,  
11 and the effects of such challenges on the  
12 Coast Guard's ability to meet mission re-  
13 quirements; and

14           (iii) the status of Coast Guard efforts  
15 to upgrade or recapitalize its fleet of such  
16 aircraft to meet growth in future mission  
17 demands globally, such as in the Western  
18 Hemisphere, the Arctic region, and the  
19 Western Pacific region.

20           (B) Any recommendation with respect to  
21 the operational availability of Coast Guard air-  
22 craft.

23           (C) The resource and workforce require-  
24 ments necessary for Coast Guard Aviation to  
25 meet current and future mission demands spe-



1                   ture Vertical Lift initiatives of the De-  
2                   partment of Defense; and

3                   (ii) an estimated timeline with respect  
4                   to when such future needs will arise.

5                   (B) The projected number of aviation as-  
6                   sets, the locations at which such assets are to  
7                   be stationed, the cost of operation and mainte-  
8                   nance of such assets, and an assessment of the  
9                   capabilities of such assets as compared to the  
10                  missions they are expected to execute, at the  
11                  completion of major procurement and mod-  
12                  ernization plans.

13                  (C) A procurement plan, including an esti-  
14                  mated timetable and the estimated appropria-  
15                  tions necessary for all platforms, including un-  
16                  manned aircraft.

17                  (D) A training plan for pilots and aircrew  
18                  that addresses—

19                         (i) the use of simulators owned and  
20                         operated by the Coast Guard, and simula-  
21                         tors that are not owned or operated by the  
22                         Coast Guard, including any such simula-  
23                         tors based outside the United States; and

24                         (ii) the costs associated with attending  
25                         training courses.

1 (E) Current and future requirements for  
2 cutter and land-based deployment of aviation  
3 assets globally, including in the Arctic, the  
4 Eastern Pacific, the Western Pacific, the Carib-  
5 bean, the Atlantic Basin, and any other area  
6 the Commandant considers appropriate.

7 (F) A description of the feasibility of and  
8 resource requirements necessary to deploy ro-  
9 tary-winged assets onboard all future Arctic  
10 cutter patrols.

11 (G) An evaluation of current and future  
12 facilities needs for Coast Guard aviation units.

13 (H) An evaluation of pilot and aircrew  
14 training and retention needs, including aviation  
15 career incentive pay, retention bonuses, and any  
16 other workforce tools the Commandant con-  
17 siders necessary.

18 (3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after  
19 the date on which the strategy required by para-  
20 graph (1) is completed, the Commandant shall pro-  
21 vide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
22 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on  
23 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of  
24 Representatives a briefing on the strategy.