



## Legislative Bulletin.....April 24, 2008

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**H.R. 2830**— Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007

H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard Authorization Act (sponsored by Rep. Oberstar, D-MN), is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Wednesday, April 24, 2008, subject to a structured rule ([H.Res. 1126](#)), making in order the following 15 amendments.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, except those regarding PAYGO and earmarks, waives all points of order against the bill itself—except the PAYGO rule—and allows the Chair to postpone consideration of the legislation at any time during its consideration. The rule allows one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Note: The summaries below are based on RSC staff review of *actual amendment text* and thus differ from what's on the Rules Committee website. For a summary of the underlying bill, see a separate RSC document released today.

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### AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

- 1. Oberstar (D-MN).** The amendment adds a new section to the bill requiring the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy to “prescribe a policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence applicable to the cadets and other personnel of the academy.” The policy is to include programs to promote rape awareness, procedures that a cadet should follow in case of an occurrence of sexual harassment, an annual assessment on the effectiveness of the Academy’s policies, and an annual report. The amendment also allows the Secretary to issues regulations requiring pilots to carry a portable electronic device that is “equipped for navigational purposes and capable of being connected to the Automatic Identification System.” The amendment also requires the EPA to conduct a study on an underground petroleum spill in New York.
- 2. LaTourette (R-OH)/Boustany (R-LA).** The amendment amends section 720 of the bill to allow the Coast Guard, when making a determination of whether the Coast Guard has the ability to secure an Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) site, to consider the state and local resources available to assist in securing the site.
- 3. Matsui (D-CA)/Poe (R-TX)/Maloney (D-NY)/Shays (R-CT).** The amendment requires the Secretary to make available on the internet the accounting of missing persons and alleged crimes committed on cruise ships required by section 711 of H.R. 2830.

- 4. Poe (R-TX).** The amendment would state the findings of Congress that “operating or embarking in a submersible or semi-submersible vessel without nationality and on an international voyage is a serious international problem... and presents a specific threat to the safety of maritime navigation and the security of the United States.” The amendment makes it a federal crime (carrying a penalty of up to 20 years in prison) to operate and embark in any submersible or semi-submersible vessel that is without nationality.
- 5. McNerney (D-CA).** The amendment states that the provisions in H.R. 2830 governing the marine safety mission of the Coast Guard shall not impair the legal authority of the Coast Guard to carry out its homeland security missions.
- 6. Bilirakis (R-FL).** The amendment amends section 708 of the bill on Maritime Biometric Identification, to change the underlying bill’s provision granting the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to establish a Maritime Biometric Identification program, to a requirement that the program be established.
- 7. Markey (D-MA).** The amendment requires the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to respond to the Secretary’s determination that a proposed waterside liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility is suitable or unsuitable for the marine traffic associated with the LNG facility by informing the Secretary within 90 days of what action the Commission has taken regarding a proposal to construct and operate a waterside LNG facility
- 8. Lofgren (D-CA).** The amendment authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to use a secondary authentication system for individuals applying for transportation security cards when fingerprints are not able to be taken or read to enhance transportation security.
- 9. Bishop (D-NY).** The amendment requires the Secretary to issue a report to Congress on “the extent to which state and local law enforcement entities are augmenting of Coast Guard resources.”
- 10. Broun (R-GA).** The amendment strikes titles X (appeals to national transportation safety board) and XI (marine safety) from the bill.
- 11. Cuellar (D-TX).** The amendment requires the Secretary to conduct a mission requirement analysis for the navigable portions of the Rio Grande River.
- 12. Kirk (R-IL).** According to the sponsor, the amendment would include vessels that operate exclusively in the Great Lakes ecosystem amongst vessels that would be required to have a ballast water treatment system, at the request of the Secretary of Agriculture.
- 13. Smith (R-TX).** The amendment adds a new title to the bill increasing federal penalties for Alien Smuggling to up to 5 years in prison.
- 14. Jackson-Lee (D-TX).** The amendment would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare an assessment of the enrollment sites for transportation security cards including the feasibility of keeping the enrollment sites open 24 hours per day and seven days a week, and the feasibility of keeping the enrollment sites open to September 25, 2008.
- 15. Stupak (D-MI).** The amendment authorizes the Commandant of the Coast Guard to convey to the city of Maquette, Michigan the “Coast Guard Station Marquette and Lighthouse Point.”