

S 2699

Oil Spill Prevention Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 4, 2008

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 1096.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 1096. (Sep 26, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2699>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • State: NJ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 4, 2008
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		May 14, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 26, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

Oil Spill Prevention Act of 2008 - (Sec. 2) Requires all new U.S. vessels with a building contract date after enactment of this Act or delivered after August 1, 2010, and with an aggregate capacity of 600 cubic meters or more of oil used as fuel, to comply with a specified regulation requiring double hulls.

(Sec. 3) Amends the Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972 to authorize the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to order any vessel to change heading and speed if the vessel does not comply with any regulation, law, or treaty or does not satisfy port entry conditions, or if the order is justified for safety.

Directs the Secretary to continue individual port and waterway safety assessments to determine the U.S. ports, waterways, and channels needing new or improved vessel traffic management risk mitigation measures, including vessel traffic service (VTS) systems.

Directs the Secretary to identify infrastructure requirements to improve existing or support new VTSS. Requires a report to Congress containing recommendations for implementing the study results.

Directs the Secretary to review and validate the recruiting, retention, training, and expansion of the VTS personnel workforce and require basic navigation training for VTS watchstander personnel.

(Sec. 4) Establishes the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee and requires it to advise the Secretary regarding: (1) medical certification determinations for issuance of merchant mariner credentials; (2) medical standards and guidelines for the operators of commercial vessels; (3) medical examiner education; and (4) medical research.

Requires, in addition, that the Committee develop specific courses and materials for medical examiners listed in the national registry established under this Act.

Directs the Secretary, among other things, to: (1) establish, review, and revise medical standards for merchant mariners and requirements for periodic physical examinations of merchant mariners; (2) require each merchant mariner to have a current valid medical certificate; (3) conduct periodic reviews of a select number of medical examiners on the national registry; and (4) require each such medical examiner to, at a minimum, self-certify that he or she has completed specific training.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) establish and maintain a current national registry of medical examiners, requiring that the examiners be licensed physicians; (2) remove any examiner from the registry who fails to meet or maintain established qualifications; (3) accept as valid only medical certificates issued by persons on the national registry of medical examiners; and (4) include in the registry licensed physicians who are certified by the Secretary of Transportation to perform medical examinations of operators of commercial motor vehicles.

Authorizes the Secretary to make participation of medical examiners in the national registry voluntary if such a change will enhance the safety of merchant mariners holding U.S. Coast Guard issued credentials.

(Sec. 5) Directs the Secretary to conduct a comprehensive study and report to Congress on marine casualty causes and contributing factors. Requires the study to identify measures that will improve the ability of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to evaluate future marine casualties, monitor trends to identify causes and contributing factors,

and develop effective safety improvement policies.

(Sec. 6) Requires the Coast Guard's commandant to report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on the need for tractor tug escorts to be used by vessels carrying petroleum products or with large supplies of fuel onboard in the five largest U.S. ports, by volume, where the use of such tugs by those vessels is not otherwise required by state law or Captain-of-the-Port order.

(Sec. 7) Amends provisions relating to the general authority of the National Transportation Safety Board to declare that specified provisions do not affect the authority of another department, agency, or instrumentality of the federal or of a state government (under current law, of the government) to investigate an accident under applicable law or to obtain information directly from the parties involved in, and witnesses to, the accident.

(Sec. 8) Requires the Commandant, to the extent practicable, to ensure that there is at least one trained and experienced pollution investigator on duty, or in an on-call status, at all times for each Coast Guard Sector Command.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 26, 2008:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Inouye with amendments. With written report No. 110-513.
- **Sep 26, 2008:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 1096.
- **May 15, 2008:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably.
- **Mar 4, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 4, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.