

HR 6556

To clarify the circumstances during which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and applicable States may require permits for discharges from certain vessels, and to require the Administrator to conduct a study of discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Jul 21, 2008

Current Status: For Further Action See P.L. 110-229 (S. 3298).

Latest Action: For Further Action See P.L. 110-229 (S. 3298). (Jul 22, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/6556>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Oberstar, James L. [D-MN-8]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. LaTourette, Steven C. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Jul 21, 2008
Rep. Taylor, Gene [D-MS-4]	D · MS		Jul 21, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 22, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 S 3298	Identical bill	Jul 31, 2008: Became Public Law No: 110-299.

Prohibits the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or a state with an approved National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, from requiring an NPDES permit for a covered vessel for the next two years for any discharge: (1) of effluent from properly functioning marine engines; (2) of laundry, shower, and galley sink wastes; or (3) that is incidental to the normal operation of a covered vessel. Defines "covered vessel" to mean a vessel that is less than 79 feet in length or a fishing vessel.

Requires the Administrator to evaluate the impacts of such discharges, excluding discharges: (1) from a vessel of the Armed Forces; (2) of sewage from a vessel, other than the discharge of graywater from a vessel operating on the Great Lakes; and (3) of ballast water.

Provides that such prohibition does not apply with respect to: (1) rubbish, trash, garbage, or other such materials discharged overboard; (2) other discharges when the vessel is operating in a capacity other than as a means of transportation; (3) ballast water discharges; or (4) any discharge that contributes to a violation of a water quality standard or poses an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 22, 2008:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Jul 22, 2008:** For Further Action See P.L. 110-229 (S. 3298).
- **Jul 21, 2008:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 21, 2008:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.