

S 3600

Fairness in Admiralty and Maritime Law Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Jul 15, 2010

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jul 15, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/3600>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 20, 2010
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 20, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 15, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 3663	Related bill	Jul 29, 2010: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 493.
111 HR 5503	Related bill	Jul 13, 2010: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Fairness in Admiralty and Maritime Law Act - Repeals specified general limitations on a shipowner's liability (the Limitation of Liability Act of 1851) for personal injury or death on seagoing vessels.

Allows punitive damages to be assessed without regard to the amount of compensatory damages assessed in a civil maritime action for damages arising out of a maritime tort.

Amends the Death on the High Seas Act to permit the personal representative of a decedent to bring a civil action in admiralty or law (limited to admiralty under current law) against the person or vessel responsible for the decedent's death when the death was caused by wrongful act, neglect, or default occurring on the high seas beyond three nautical miles from the shore of the United States. Limits the right to bring such action to the decedent's survivors, including spouse, parent, child, or dependent relative.

Allows recovery in such an action for fair compensation for nonpecuniary loss (limited to pecuniary loss under current law), plus a fair compensation for the decedent's pain and suffering. Defines "nonpecuniary loss" as loss of care, comfort, and companionship.

Amends the Jones Act to allow recovery for the loss of the care, comfort, and companionship of a seaman who died in the course of employment. Removes restrictions on the bringing of actions under U.S. maritime law by workers who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents against a mineral or energy company for personal injury or death occurring in the territorial waters or continental shelf of a foreign country.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 15, 2010:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 15, 2010:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.