

HR 5346

To enhance homeland security in the ports and waterways of the United States, and for other purposes.

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Emergency Management

**Introduced:** May 19, 2010

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism. (May 27, 2010)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/5346>

Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	May 27, 2010
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	May 20, 2010
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	May 20, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Emergency Management

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 3619	Related bill	Oct 15, 2010: Became Public Law No: 111-281.

America's Waterway Watch Act - Establishes within the Coast Guard the America's Waterway Watch Program to promote voluntary reporting of activities indicating a threat or act of terrorism against a vessel, facility, port, or waterway.

Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to: (1) report to specified congressional committees and to the Comptroller General on the pilot program to test the business processes, technology, and operational impacts required to deploy transportation security card readers at secure areas of the marine transportation system; (2) report to specified congressional committees on the establishment of Interagency Operational Centers for Port Security and on the threat, vulnerability, and consequence of a terrorist attack on gasoline and chemical cargo shipments in port activity areas; (3) establish no less than two maritime security response teams to act as the Coast Guard's counterterrorism and law enforcement response units; (4) increase the number of detection canine teams certified by the Coast Guard for maritime-related security; (5) conduct a program for the mobile biometric identification of suspected individuals, including terrorists, to enhance border security; (6) establish a pilot program to test and deploy preventive radiological or nuclear detection equipment on Coast Guard vessels to enhance border security; (7) establish procedures for fingerprinting applicants for transportation security cards and prepare an assessment of the enrollment sites for such cards; and (8) initiate a national study to identify measures for improving the security of maritime transportation of certain dangerous cargo and coordinate an evaluation of the waterside security of vessels carrying, and waterfront facilities handling, certain dangerous cargo.

Directs the Comptroller General to: (1) study the effects that the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) has on companies that employ seasonal employees; (2) study methods to conduct a background security investigation of an individual who possesses a biometric identification card that complies with International Labor Convention number 185; and (3) report to specified congressional committees regarding background checks and forms of identification required under state and local transportation security programs.

Requires the Commandant of the Coast Guard to promote maritime security and ensure appropriate coverage of maritime security missions within the workforce. Authorizes the Commandant to establish and operate one or more centers of expertise for maritime security.

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## **Actions Timeline**

- **May 27, 2010:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism.
- **May 20, 2010:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.
- **May 20, 2010:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **May 19, 2010:** Introduced in House
- **May 19, 2010:** Referred to House Homeland Security
- **May 19, 2010:** Referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **May 19, 2010:** Referred to House Transportation and Infrastructure