

S 1361

World War II Merchant Mariner Service Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jul 24, 2013

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-280.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-280. (Oct 30, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1361>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 25, 2013
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jul 25, 2013
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Oct 28, 2013
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Oct 30, 2013
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Nov 12, 2013
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Dec 17, 2013
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Nov 20, 2014
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Nov 20, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Oct 30, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 1288	Identical bill	Jun 28, 2013: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

World War II Merchant Mariner Service Act - Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to accept additional documentation for verifying that an individual performed honorable service as a coastwise merchant seaman during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946, for purposes of eligibility for veterans' benefits under the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977. Requires such documentation to include Social Security Administration (SSA) records and validated testimony in the case of the absence of Coast Guard shipping or discharge forms, ship logbooks, documents, or other official employment records.

Requires the Secretary, when determining whether to recognize service allegedly performed during such period, to recognize masters of seagoing vessels or other command officers who were authorized to document an individual for purposes of hiring for or discharging from the merchant marine.

Considers any service so recognized as active-duty service for purposes of veterans' burial benefits. Makes such veterans eligible for any appropriate military medals, ribbons, and decorations. Requires the Secretary to verify that an individual performed such service under honorable conditions without regard to their sex, age, or disability during the service period.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 30, 2013:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-280.
- **Jul 24, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 24, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.