

HR 5609

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Sep 18, 2014

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. (Sep 19, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5609>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-50]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Enyart, William L. [D-IL-12]	D · IL		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3]	R · WA		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Jolly, David [R-FL-13]	R · FL		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. LoBiondo, Frank A. [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]	R · MO		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Nov 14, 2014
Rep. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA-6]	R · LA		Nov 14, 2014
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Nov 14, 2014
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Nov 14, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 19, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 2094	Related bill	Dec 10, 2014: By Senator Rockefeller from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Report No. 113-304.

Summary (as of Sep 18, 2014)

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act - Sets forth provisions concerning standards for waste water discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including discharges of ballast water (water taken into the ship's ballast to maintain stability).

Requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish and implement enforceable uniform national standards for the regulation of discharges from vessels into navigable waters and best management practices for discharges other than ballast water.

Sets as the national standard the Coast Guard's 2012 "Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters." Requires DHS to revise the ballast water performance standard so that those discharges will contain less than specified concentrations of living organisms, indicator microbes, and viruses if DHS finds that the standard would be feasible.

Requires ballast water treatment technology to be certified by DHS. Prohibits DHS from certifying a technology that uses certain biocides (substances or organisms introduced into or produced by the technology to reduce or eliminate aquatic nuisance species).

Sets forth exemptions from permit requirements, prohibitions of any other law, and discharge standards under this Act for specified discharges and vessels.

Authorizes DHS to establish alternative programs for compliance with ballast water discharge regulations for specified vessels. Directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promulgate standards for the reception of ballast water from a vessel into a reception facility and the disposal or treatment of the ballast water.

Establishes this Act as the exclusive statutory authority for federal regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this Act applies.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 19, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.
- **Sep 18, 2014:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 18, 2014:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.