

S 1717

A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Jul 8, 2015

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 658.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 658. (Oct 27, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1717>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Feb 2, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Oct 27, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1248	Identical bill	Mar 5, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

(Sec. 1) This bill extends through October 31, 2028, the exemption of certain vessels from the requirement that U.S. passenger vessels having berth or stateroom accommodations for at least 50 passengers be constructed of fire-retardant materials in order to be granted a certificate of inspection.

The bill continues to apply this exemption only to vessels in operation before January 1, 1968, which operate only within the Boundary Line (the dividing point between inland waters and high seas).

An owner or managing operator of an exempt vessel shall:

- notify crew members (currently, only prospective passengers) that the vessel does not comply with applicable fire safety standards due primarily to the wooden construction of passenger berthing areas; and
- make annual structural alterations to at least 10% of vessel areas that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials and provide advance notice to the Coast Guard of such alterations.

Any noncombustible material requirements prescribed by the Coast Guard (with which an exempt vessel is still required to comply) shall be consistent with the preservation of a vessel's historic integrity in areas carrying or accessible to passengers or generally visible to the public.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 27, 2016:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Thune under authority of the order of the Senate of 09/29/2016 without amendment. With written report No. 114-367.
- **Oct 27, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 658.
- **Jun 29, 2016:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Jul 8, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 8, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.