

S 1775

World War II Merchant Mariner Service Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jul 15, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jul 15, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1775>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 15, 2015
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jul 15, 2015
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 30, 2015
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Aug 5, 2015
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Aug 5, 2015
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 9, 2015
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Oct 5, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Oct 22, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 19, 2016
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 9, 2016
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Feb 29, 2016
Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]	R · SC		Mar 3, 2016
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Apr 7, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 15, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1288	Identical bill	Aug 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

World War II Merchant Mariner Service Act

Requires the Department 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 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 DHS, 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 DHS 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

- **Jul 15, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 15, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.