

HR 980

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Feb 13, 2015

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. (Feb 17, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/980>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (41 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Feb 13, 2015
Rep. LoBiondo, Frank A. [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Feb 13, 2015
Rep. Graham, Gwen [D-FL-2]	D · FL		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Jolly, David W. [R-FL-13]	R · FL		Apr 15, 2015
Rep. Scalise, Steve [R-LA-1]	R · LA		Apr 15, 2015
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Apr 15, 2015
Rep. Culberson, John Abney [R-TX-7]	R · TX		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]	R · MO		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Graves, Sam [R-MO-6]	R · MO		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Abraham, Ralph Lee [R-LA-5]	R · LA		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Crenshaw, Ander [R-FL-4]	R · FL		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Roskam, Peter J. [R-IL-6]	R · IL		May 13, 2015
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		May 19, 2015
Rep. Takai, Mark [D-HI-1]	D · HI		May 19, 2015
Rep. Young, Todd [R-IN-9]	R · IN		Jun 3, 2015
Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12]	R · IL		Jun 15, 2015
Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Jun 15, 2015
Rep. Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Simpson, Michael K. [R-ID-2]	R · ID		Sep 16, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]	R · OH		Oct 23, 2015
Rep. Mooney, Alexander X. [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Oct 23, 2015
Rep. Graves, Garret [R-LA-6]	R · LA		Dec 2, 2015
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Feb 29, 2016
Rep. Fincher, Stephen Lee [R-TN-8]	R · TN		Mar 23, 2016
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Apr 21, 2016
Rep. Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Apr 21, 2016
Rep. Jenkins, Evan H. [R-WV-3]	R · WV		Apr 25, 2016
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Apr 25, 2016
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Apr 25, 2016
Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4]	R · IN		Apr 26, 2016
Rep. Donovan, Daniel M., Jr. [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Apr 29, 2016
Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]	R · WV		Apr 29, 2016
Rep. Crawford, Eric A. "Rick" [R-AR-1]	R · AR		May 10, 2016
Rep. Russell, Steve [R-OK-5]	R · OK		May 10, 2016
Rep. Byrne, Bradley [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Jun 9, 2016
Rep. Fleming, John [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Jul 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 17, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 4909	Related bill	May 26, 2016: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 502.
114 S 373	Related bill	Jul 29, 2015: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 171.

Summary (as of Feb 13, 2015)

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

This bill requires the Coast Guard to establish and implement enforceable uniform national standards for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel into navigable waters. The Coast Guard's existing rule for ballast water discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel are adopted until those performance standards are revised or a more stringent state standard is adopted. Ballast water is water taken aboard a vessel to control stability or during the operation of a vessel's ballast water treatment technology.

Within two years, the Coast Guard must establish best management practices for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

By January 1, 2020, the Coast Guard must complete a feasibility review to determine whether revising ballast water performance standards will result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species. The Coast Guard must establish a revised standard based on the ballast water treatment technology available. Further revisions to the performance standards are to be considered every 10 years.

This bill establishes a certification requirement for ballast water treatment technology. The Coast Guard may not approve a technology if it uses a biocide or generates a biocide that is a pesticide.

This bill establishes a petition process for a state seeking to enforce a state or local statute or regulation related to ballast water discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel that is more stringent than federal performance standards.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 17, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.
- **Feb 13, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 13, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation.