

## S 576

Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** Mar 3, 2021

**Current Status:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 197.

**Latest Action:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 197. (Dec 16, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/576>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

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

### Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 3, 2021
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 3, 2021
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jun 23, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 14, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 16, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1561	Identical bill	<b>Mar 4, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

## **Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act of 2021**

This bill directs the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct icebreaking operations in the Great Lakes in accordance with specific performance standards.

Specifically, the Coast Guard must

- keep channels and harbors in the Great Lakes open to navigation not less than 90% of the hours that commercial vessels and ferries attempt to transit ice-covered waterways; and
- in a year in which the Great Lakes are not open to navigation because of ice of a thickness that occurs on average only once every 10 years, keep channels and harbors open to navigation at least 70% of the hours that commercial vessels and ferries attempt to transit ice-covered waterways.

Additionally, the Coast Guard must establish and maintain a database for collecting, archiving, and disseminating data on icebreaking operations and commercial vessel transit in the Great Lakes during ice season.

The bill also directs the Coast Guard to acquire a Great Lakes icebreaker that is at least as capable as Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw.

The Government Accountability Office must submit to Congress a report on the Coast Guard Great Lakes icebreaking program.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 16, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Cantwell with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 16, 2021:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 197.
- **Apr 28, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Mar 3, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 3, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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