

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	Mar 4, 2021: 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

- **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.