

HR 5964

Improving Protections for Midshipmen Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Nov 12, 2021

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. (Nov 15, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5964>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred To	Nov 12, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 15, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 3196	Related bill	Dec 7, 2022: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 597.

Improving Protections for Midshipmen Act

This bill addresses sexual harassment and sexual assault at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and provides for greater diversity and inclusion at the academy and within the maritime transportation system workforce.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) shall establish a Sexual Assault Advisory Council to review the academy's policy on sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and other relevant matters related to sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The DOT's Maritime Administration shall (1) establish an information management system to track the number of sexual assault or sexual harassment incidents every fiscal year at the academy, and (2) implement comprehensive in-person sexual assault risk-reduction and response training for all midshipmen at the academy.

Additionally, the bill designates a Special Victims' Counsel to provide legal assistance to any cadet of the academy who is the victim of a sex-related offense.

Further, the Coast Guard shall assess the feasibility of implementing a program modeled on the Catch a Serial Offender program of the Department of Defense. The bill also expands the authority of the Coast Guard to suspend or revoke a mariner's license on grounds related to sexual harassment or assault.

With respect to diversity and inclusion, DOT shall establish an interagency task force to discuss and share tools and practices that promote diversity and inclusiveness within the maritime transportation system workforce. The Maritime Administration shall promulgate a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan to increase recruiting efforts in historically underrepresented communities.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 15, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.
- **Nov 12, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 12, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.