

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2430

To prevent maritime emergencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 6, 2007

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To prevent maritime emergencies, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Maritime Emergency
5 Prevention Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing new section:

1 **“§ 99. Emergency command authority**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Using the Vessel Traffic Service
3 (VTS) maintained under the Ports and Waterways Safety
4 Act of 1972 (Public Law 107–340; 33 U.S.C. 1221 et
5 seq.), the Secretary may command the person directing
6 the movements of a vessel to modify the speed or direction
7 of a vessel in the event of an emergency or hazardous con-
8 ditions as determined by the local Coast Guard VTS direc-
9 tor.

10 “(b) LIMITATION ON CIVIL ACTIONS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
12 provision of law, a civil action for damages may not
13 be filed in any Federal or State court against the
14 Secretary or any officer in relation to the exercise of
15 authority under this section.

16 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
17 this section may be construed to limit any immunity,
18 privilege, or defense under any other provision of
19 law.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
22 at the end the following new item:

“99. Emergency command authority.”.

1 **SEC. 3. LAPTOP NAVIGATION REQUIREMENT FOR FEDER-**
2 **ALLY LICENSED PILOTS.**

3 The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall require
4 that, beginning not later than 90 days after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act, any pilot licensed under subtitle
6 II of title 46, United States Code, who directs the move-
7 ment of a vessel in circumstances in which the applicable
8 State or local pilotage authority determines that utiliza-
9 tion of a laptop computer equipped with a navigation sys-
10 tem aboard is practicable and necessary, the pilot shall
11 carry and utilize a laptop computer so equipped for navi-
12 gation purposes.

13 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There is authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000
15 for the upgrading of Coast Guard equipment and tech-
16 nology for the Vessel Traffic Service.

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