

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6531

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definitions of a hull and a deck.

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

1 **SECTION 1. VESSEL HULL DESIGN PROTECTION.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Vessel Hull Design Protection Amendments of 2008”.

4 (b) **DESIGNS PROTECTED.**—Section 1301(a) of title  
5 17, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph  
6 (2) and inserting the following:

7 “(2) **VESSEL FEATURES.**—The design of a ves-  
8 sel hull, deck, or combination of a hull and deck, in-  
9 cluding a plug or mold, is subject to protection  
10 under this chapter, notwithstanding section  
11 1302(4).”.

12 (c) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Section 1301(a) of title 17,  
13 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
14 following:

15 “(3) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Department of Defense  
16 rights in a registered design under this chapter, in-  
17 cluding the right to build to such registered design,  
18 shall be determined solely by operation of section  
19 2320 of title 10 or by the instrument under which  
20 the design was developed for the United States Gov-  
21 ernment.”.

22 (d) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 1301(b) of title 17,  
23 United States Code, is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “vessel hull,  
25 including a plug or mold,” and inserting “vessel hull  
26 or deck, including a plug or mold,”;

1           (2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the  
2 following:

3           “(4) A ‘hull’ is the exterior frame or body of a  
4 vessel, exclusive of the deck, superstructure, masts,  
5 sails, yards, rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other  
6 attachments.”; and

7           (3) by adding at the end the following:

8           “(7) A ‘deck’ is the horizontal surface of a ves-  
9 sel that covers the hull, including exterior cabin and  
10 cockpit surfaces, and exclusive of masts, sails, yards,  
11 rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other attachments.”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 22, 2008.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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