

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1780

To amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to authorize State maritime academies to reimburse qualified individuals for fees imposed for the issuance of certain entry level merchant seamen licenses and merchant mariners' documents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 1993

Mr. FIELDS of Texas (for himself, Mr. STUDDS, Mr. TAUZIN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

A BILL

To amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to authorize State maritime academies to reimburse qualified individuals for fees imposed for the issuance of certain entry level merchant seamen licenses and merchant mariners' documents, 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 Academy Li-
5 censing Relief Act".

1 **SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN FEES BY STATE**
2 **MARITIME ACADEMIES.**

3 (a) **CONDITION OF ASSISTANCE.**—Section 1304(d) of
4 the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 App. U.S.C.
5 1295c(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), an agreement
7 under this subsection shall require a State maritime acad-
8 emy to reimburse each qualified individual for any fee or
9 charge for which the individual is liable to the United
10 States for—

11 “(i) the issuance of an entry level license under
12 chapter 71 of title 46, United States Code;

13 “(ii) the first issuance of a merchant mariner’s
14 document under chapter 73 of that title;

15 “(iii) an evaluation or examination for such a li-
16 cense or merchant mariner’s document conducted
17 before the end of the period described in subpara-
18 graph (D)(ii); or

19 “(iv) an application for such a license, mer-
20 chant mariner’s document, evaluation, or examina-
21 tion.

22 “(B) A State maritime academy shall reimburse
23 qualified individuals under subparagraph (A) to the extent
24 amounts are available under subparagraph (C).

25 “(C) In addition to annual payments under para-
26 graph (1)(A) and subject to the availability of appropria-

1 tions, the Secretary shall annually pay to each State mari-
2 time academy that enters into an agreement under para-
3 graph (1) amounts to reimburse qualified individuals
4 under subparagraph (A).

5 “(D) In this paragraph, the term ‘qualified individ-
6 ual’ means an individual who—

7 “(i) is attending or is a graduate of a State
8 maritime academy;

9 “(ii) fulfills the requirements for a license or
10 merchant mariner’s document described in subpara-
11 graph (A) not later than three months after the date
12 the individual graduates from a State maritime
13 academy; and

14 “(iii) is liable for a fee or charge described in
15 subparagraph (A).”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
17 subsection (a) is effective October 1, 1993.

18 (c) AMENDMENT OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—As
19 soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this
20 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall amend agree-
21 ments under section 1304(d) of the Merchant Marine Act,
22 1936 (46 App. U.S.C. 1295c(d)) pursuant to the amend-
23 ment made by subsection (a).

24 (d) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.—
25 In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for

1 assistance to State maritime academies, there is author-
2 ized to be appropriated \$300,000 for Fiscal Year 1994
3 to reimburse qualified individuals pursuant to the amend-
4 ment made by subsection (a).

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