

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3282

To amend title 46, United States Code, to improve towing vessel navigational safety.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 14, 1993

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

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to improve towing vessel navigational safety.

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 “Towing Vessel Naviga-
5 tional Safety Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR**
7 **TOWING VESSELS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4102 of title 46, United
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(f) Each towing vessel to which this chapter applies
2 shall be equipped with navigational publications and
3 equipment as prescribed by the Secretary, including—

4 “(1) marine charts of the area being transited;

5 “(2) navigational publications for the area
6 being transited;

7 “(3) compasses;

8 “(4) radar; and

9 “(5) a fathometer.”.

10 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Transportation
11 shall issue regulations by not later than 6 months after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, prescribing naviga-
13 tional publication and equipment requirements under sub-
14 section (f) of section 4102 of title 46, United States Code,
15 as added by subsection (a) of this section.

16 **SEC. 3. DEMONSTRATION OF PROFICIENCY IN USE OF**
17 **NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT RE-**
18 **QUIRED.**

19 Section 7101 of title 46, United States Code, is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(j) The Secretary shall require an individual who ap-
22 plies for issuance or renewal of a towing vessel operators
23 license to demonstrate proficiency in the use of naviga-
24 tional safety equipment.”.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORTING MARINE CASUALTIES.**

2 (a) EXPEDITED REPORTING REQUIRED.—Section
3 6101(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by
4 striking “within 5 days” and inserting “by as soon as
5 practicable, but in no case later than within 5 days,”.

6 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pre-
8 scribe regulations implementing the amendment made by
9 subsection (a).

10 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF**
11 **MANNING AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**
12 **FOR OPERATION OF TOWING VESSELS.**

13 Not later than 6 months after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall
15 submit a report to the Congress on the adequacy and ef-
16 fectiveness of manning and licensing requirements for op-
17 eration of towing vessels.

18 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DIF-**
19 **FERENTIAL GLOBAL POSITIONING SAT-**
20 **ELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR INLAND**
21 **WATERWAYS.**

22 Not later than 6 months after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall
24 submit a report to the Congress on the feasibility of estab-
25 lishing a differential global positioning satellite navigation
26 system for the inland waterways of the United States.

