

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5136

Entitled the “Offshore Supply Vessel Construction and Development Act of 1994”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 1994

Mr. TAUZIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

A BILL

Entitled the “Offshore Supply Vessel Construction and Development Act of 1994”.

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 “Offshore Supply Vessel
5 Construction and Development Act of 1994”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL.**

7 Section 2101(19) of title 46, United States Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 “(19) ‘offshore supply vessel’ means a motor
10 vessel that regularly transports goods, supplies, indi-

1 viduals in addition to the crew, or equipment in sup-
2 port of exploration, exploitation, or production of
3 offshore mineral or energy resources that—

4 “(A) is more than 15 regulatory gross tons
5 but less than 500 regulatory gross tons; or

6 “(B) is more than 15 international gross
7 tons, and not more than a maximum number of
8 international gross tons prescribed by regula-
9 tion of the Secretary.”.

10 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION TO VESSELS.**

11 (a) Section 3702(b) of title 46, United States Code,
12 is amended to read as follows:

13 “(b)(1) The following vessels are deemed not to be
14 a tank vessel for purposes of this chapter or any other
15 law:

16 “(A) An offshore supply vessel.

17 “(B) A fishing or fish tender vessel of not more
18 than 750 regulatory gross tons, when engaged in the
19 fishing industry.

20 “(2) This subsection does not affect the authority of
21 the Secretary under chapter 33 of this title to regulate
22 the operation of vessels listed in paragraph (1) of this sub-
23 section to ensure the safe carriage of oil and hazardous
24 substances.”.

1 (b) Section 3306(a) of title 46, United States Code,
2 is amended after “safety” by inserting “of the marine en-
3 vironment and”.

4 (c) Section 5209 of Public Law 102–587 is repealed.

5 (d) Section 321 of Public Law 103–206 is repealed.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS FOR**
7 **MANNING AND LICENSING.**

8 (a) Section 7310 of title 46, United States Code, is
9 amended to read as follows: “For service on an offshore
10 supply vessel, an individual may be rated as able sea-
11 man—offshore supply vessels if the individual has the fol-
12 lowing service on deck on board vessels operating on the
13 oceans or the navigable waters of the United States (in-
14 cluding the Great Lakes):

15 “(1) At least 6 months service on an offshore
16 supply vessel of less than 500 regulatory gross tons,
17 or 1600 international gross tons.

18 “(2) An amount of service prescribed by the
19 Secretary on an offshore supply vessel of at least
20 1600 international gross tons.”.

21 (b) Section 7312(d) of title 46, United States Code,
22 is amended by striking “a vessel of less than 500 gross
23 tons” through “energy resources” and inserting “an off-
24 shore supply vessel”.

1 (c) Section 8104(g) of title 46, United States Code,
2 is amended—

3 (1) after “offshore supply vessel” by inserting
4 “of not more than 500 regulatory gross tons or
5 1600 international gross tons,” and

6 (2) by adding at the end of the subsection:
7 “The Secretary may prescribe requirements for the
8 minimum number of watches on an offshore supply
9 vessel of more than 1600 international gross tons.”.

10 (d) Section 8301(b) of title 46, United States Code,
11 is amended—

12 (1) after “offshore supply vessel” by inserting
13 “of not more than 500 regulatory gross tons or
14 1600 international gross tons,”;

15 (2) after “200” by inserting “regulatory”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end of the subsection,
17 “The Secretary may prescribe requirements for the
18 minimum number of licensed individuals on an off-
19 shore supply vessel of more than 1600 international
20 gross tons.”.

21 **SEC. 5. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.**

22 Section 8103(b)(3)(A) of title 46, United States
23 Code, is amended to read as follows:

24 “(A) an offshore supply vessel, or a similarly
25 engaged vessel of less than 1600 regulatory gross

1 tons or to a maximum international tonnage pre-
2 scribed by regulation of the Secretary;”.

3 **SEC. 6. RESPONSE PLANNING REQUIREMENT.**

4 (a) Chapter 31 of title 46, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding the following section:

6 **“§3103. Vessel response plans for offshore supply**
7 **vessels**

8 “(a) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for ves-
9 sel pollution response plans for domestic operations of an
10 offshore supply vessel if—

11 “(1) the vessel is over 400 international gross
12 tons; and

13 “(2) the keel of the vessel is laid after July 18,
14 1994 or the vessel undergoes a change substantially
15 affecting its tonnage after that date.

16 “(b) In prescribing regulations under this section, the
17 Secretary shall consider the unique characteristics, meth-
18 ods of operation, and nature of the service of the vessels.”.

19 (b) The table of sections for chapter 31 of title 46,
20 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
21 following:

“3103. Vessel response plans for offshore supply vessels.”.

22 **SEC. 7. TONNAGE MEASUREMENT DEFINITIONS.**

23 Section 14101 of title 46, United States Code, is
24 amended—

1 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “In this part”;

2 and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-

4 section:

5 “(b) When used in a law, regulation, document, rul-

6 ing, or other official act referring to the tonnage measure-

7 ment of a vessel—

8 “(1) ‘international gross tons’ means gross tons

9 as measured under chapter 143 of this title; and

10 “(2) ‘regulatory gross tons’ means gross tons as

11 measured under chapter 145 of this title.”.

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