

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 247

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

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on National Security

A BILL

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".

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

8 (a) CONDITION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 1304(d) of
9 the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 App. U.S.C.
10 1295c(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), an agree-
2 ment under this subsection shall require a State
3 maritime academy to reimburse each qualified indi-
4 vidual for any fee or charge for which the individual
5 is liable to the United States for—

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

9 “(ii) the first issuance of a merchant mari-
10 ner’s document under chapter 73 of that title;

11 “(iii) an evaluation or examination for
12 such a license or merchant mariner’s document
13 conducted before the end of the period de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (D)(ii); or

15 “(iv) an application for such a license,
16 merchant mariner’s document, evaluation, or
17 examination.

18 “(B) A State maritime academy shall reimburse
19 qualified individuals under subparagraph (A) to the
20 extent amounts are available under subparagraph
21 (C).

22 “(C) In addition to annual payments under
23 paragraph (1)(A) and subject to the availability of
24 appropriations, the Secretary shall annually pay to
25 each State maritime academy that enters into an

1 agreement under paragraph (1) amounts to reim-
2 burse qualified individuals under subparagraph (A).

3 “(D) In this paragraph, the term ‘qualified in-
4 dividual’ means an individual who—

5 “(i) is attending or is a graduate of a
6 State maritime academy;

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

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

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
15 subsection (a) is effective October 1, 1995.

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

22 (d) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.—
23 In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for
24 assistance to State maritime academies, there is author-
25 ized to be appropriated \$300,000 for fiscal year 1996 to

1 reimburse qualified individuals pursuant to the amend-
2 ment made by subsection (a).

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