

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3301

To implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2018

Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, 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. REQUIREMENTS FOR AMPHIBIOUS PASSENGER**
4 **VESSELS TO REMAIN AFLOAT AND UPRIGHT**
5 **IN THE EVENT OF FLOODING.**

6 (a) RESERVE BUOYANCY FOR AMPHIBIOUS PAS-
7 Senger VESSELS THROUGH PASSIVE MEANS.—

8 (1) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than
9 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
10 the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall prescribe

1 in regulations requirements that operators of am-
2 phibious passenger vessels provide reserve buoyancy
3 for such vessels through passive means, including
4 watertight compartmentalization, built-in flotation,
5 or such other means as the Commandant shall speci-
6 fy in the regulations, in order to ensure that such
7 vessels remain afloat and upright in the event of
8 flooding, including when carrying a full complement
9 of passengers and crew.

10 (2) DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE.—The regula-
11 tions required by paragraph (1) shall require compli-
12 ance with the requirements in the regulations by op-
13 erators of amphibious passenger vessels by such
14 date, not later than 24 months after the date of the
15 enactment of this Act, as the Commandant shall
16 specify in the regulations.

17 (b) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS.—Commencing as of
18 the date the regulations required by subsection (a) are
19 prescribed, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall re-
20 quire that operators of amphibious passenger vessels that
21 are not in compliance with the requirements in the regula-
22 tions do the following:

23 (1) Remove the canopies of such vessels for wa-
24 terborne operations, or install in such vehicles a
25 Coast Guard-approved canopy that does not restrict

1 either horizontal or vertical escape by passengers in
2 the event of flooding or sinking.

3 (2) If the canopy is removed from any such ves-
4 sel pursuant to paragraph (1), require that all pas-
5 sengers don a Coast Guard type-approved personal
6 flotation device before the onset of waterborne oper-
7 ations of such vessel.

8 (3) Reengineer such vessels to permanently
9 close all unnecessary access plugs and to reduce all
10 through-hull penetrations to the minimum number
11 and size necessary for operation.

12 (4) Install in such vessels independently pow-
13 ered electric bilge pumps that are capable of
14 dewatering such vessels at the volume of the largest
15 remaining penetration in order to supplement either
16 an operable Higgins pump or a dewatering pump of
17 equivalent or greater capacity.

18 (5) Install in such vessels not fewer than four
19 independently powered bilge alarms.

20 (6) Inspect any such vessel in water after each
21 time a through-hull penetration of such vessel has
22 been removed or uncovered.

23 (7) Verify the watertight integrity of any such
24 vessel in the water at the outset of each waterborne
25 departure of such vessel.

1 (8) Otherwise comply with any other provisions
2 of Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 1–01
3 in the inspection, configuration, and operation of
4 such vessels.

5 (c) PROHIBITION ON OPERATION OF NONCOMPLIANT
6 VESSELS.—The following amphibious passenger vessels
7 may not operate on United States waterways:

8 (1) Commencing as of the date the regulations
9 required by subsection (a) are prescribed, any am-
10 phibious passenger vessel whose configuration or op-
11 eration does not comply with the requirements in
12 subsection (b).

13 (2) Commencing as of the date specified by the
14 Commandant of the Coast Guard pursuant to sub-
15 section (a)(2), any amphibious passenger vessel
16 whose configuration or operation does not comply
17 with the requirements in the regulations under sub-
18 section (a)(1).

○