

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6625

To establish requirements for cruise lines to receive Federal funds and Federal assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2020

Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish requirements for cruise lines to receive Federal funds and Federal assistance, 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 “Cruise Reform and
5 Uniform Industry Standards Evoke Integrity Act” or the
6 “CRUISE Integrity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CRUISE VESSELS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
3 sion of law, no Federal funds or Federal assistance, in-
4 cluding a direct loan, loan guarantee, or tax credit, may
5 be provided to a cruise line unless—

6 (1) such cruise line is incorporated in the
7 United States;

8 (2) not less than 50 percent of the cruise ves-
9 sels operated by such cruise line are registered in
10 the United States;

11 (3) such cruise line certifies compliance with all
12 applicable environmental dumping laws and section
13 3507(k), as amended by this Act;

14 (4) such cruise line certifies that such cruise
15 line will not abrogate existing collective labor bar-
16 gaining agreements for the term of the loan and 2
17 years after completing repayment of the loan, if ap-
18 plicable;

19 (5) such cruise line certifies that such cruise
20 line will remain neutral in any union organizing ef-
21 fort for the term of the loan, if applicable; and

22 (6) such cruise line offers full reimbursement to
23 passengers for cancellations related to coronavirus
24 COVID-19.

25 (b) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any
26 other provision of law, to be eligible to receive any Federal

1 funds or Federal assistance under any provision of law,
2 a cruise line shall—

3 (1) enter into an agreement that provides that
4 until the date that is 12 months after the date on
5 which all Federal funds provided are expended, a
6 loan or loan guarantee is no longer outstanding, or
7 Federal assistance is provided, as applicable—

8 (A) neither the cruise line nor any affiliate
9 of the cruise line may purchase an equity secu-
10 rity that is listed on a national securities ex-
11 change of the cruise line or any parent company
12 of the cruise line, except to the extent required
13 under a contractual obligation in effect as of
14 the date of enactment of this Act; and

15 (B) the cruise line shall not pay dividends
16 or make other capital distributions with respect
17 to the common stock of the cruise line;

18 (2) develop a plan to reduce total emissions of
19 such cruise line of carbon, methane, nitrogen oxides,
20 and Black Carbon, including by reducing the use of
21 heavy fuel oil and exhaust gas systems, by 45 per-
22 cent by 2030 and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas
23 emissions by 2050; and

24 (3) submit to Congress the plan developed pur-
25 suant to paragraph (2).

1 (c) PROHIBITION ON LOAN FORGIVENESS.—Notwith-
2 standing any other provision of law, the principal amount
3 of any obligation issued by a cruise line described under
4 subsection (b) shall not be reduced through loan forgive-
5 ness.

6 **SEC. 3. MONITORING AND INSPECTION PROGRAM FOR**
7 **CRUISE VESSELS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment, the Administrator of the Environ-
10 mental Protection Agency shall establish a program to re-
11 quire monitoring and inspections of the compliance of
12 cruise vessels with environmental standards, including at
13 a minimum—

14 (1) regular announced inspections of cruise ves-
15 sel operations, equipment, or discharges, including
16 sampling and testing cruise vessel discharges; and

17 (2) not less than 1 unannounced inspection of
18 each cruise vessel each year.

19 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 12 months after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
21 issue such regulations as are necessary to—

22 (1) require the owner, operator, master, or
23 other person in charge of a cruise vessel to maintain
24 and submit a logbook detailing the times, types, vol-
25 umes, flow rates, origins, and specific locations of,

1 and explanations for, any discharges from the cruise
2 vessel not otherwise required by subpart E of part
3 159 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations;

4 (2) require routine announced and unan-
5 nounced inspections of—

6 (A) cruise vessel environmental compliance
7 records and procedures; and

8 (B) the operation and maintenance of in-
9 stalled equipment for abatement and control of
10 any cruise vessel discharge (including equip-
11 ment intended to treat sewage, graywater, bilge
12 water, or air pollution);

13 (3) require the posting of the phone number for
14 a toll-free whistleblower hotline on all cruise vessels
15 and at all ports using language likely to be under-
16 stood by international crews; and

17 (4) require any owner, operator, master, or
18 other person in charge of a cruise vessel, who has
19 knowledge of a discharge from the cruise vessel in
20 violation of this subsection, including regulations
21 promulgated pursuant to this subsection, to report
22 immediately the discharge to the Administrator and
23 the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

24 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
25 of establishment of the program under subsection (a), the

1 Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describ-
2 ing—

3 (1) the results of the program, optimal cov-
4 erage, environmental benefits, and cruise vessel co-
5 operation; and

6 (2) recommendations for increased effective-
7 ness, including increased training needs and in-
8 creased equipment needs.

9 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE, GRAY-**
10 **WATER, AND BILGE WATER.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—No cruise vessel departing from
12 or calling on, a port of the United States may discharge
13 sewage, graywater, bilge water, or exhaust gas scrubber
14 effluent into navigable waters and territorial seas, un-
15 less—

16 (1) the sewage, graywater, bilge water, or ex-
17 haust gas scrubber effluent is treated to meet all ap-
18 plicable effluent limits and is in accordance with all
19 other applicable laws;

20 (2) the cruise vessel is underway and pro-
21 ceeding at a speed of not less than 6 knots; and

22 (3) the cruise vessel is more than 12 nautical
23 miles from shore.

24 (b) SENSITIVE WATER BODIES.—Notwithstanding
25 any other provision of this paragraph, no cruise vessel de-

1 parting from, or calling on, a port of the United States
2 may discharge treated or untreated sewage, graywater, or
3 bilge water into waters belonging to Alaska, the Arctic,
4 National Marine Sanctuaries, and National Marine Monu-
5 ments.

6 (c) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of this section
7 shall not apply to discharges made for the purpose of se-
8 curing the safety of the cruise vessel or saving life at sea,
9 provided that all reasonable precautions have been taken
10 for the purpose of preventing or minimizing the discharge.

11 (d) PENALTIES.—

12 (1) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person who violates
13 this section shall be liable to the United States for
14 a civil penalty not to exceed \$50,000 per day for
15 each violation.

16 (2) SEPARATE VIOLATION.—Each day of a con-
17 tinuing violation shall constitute a separate violation.

18 (3) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A person who know-
19 ingly violates this section commits a class D felony.

20 (4) FALSE STATEMENT.—Any person who
21 knowingly makes any false statement, representa-
22 tion, or certification in any record, report, or other
23 document filed or required to be maintained under
24 this section, or who falsifies, tampers with, or know-
25 ingly renders inaccurate any testing or monitoring

1 device or method required to be maintained under
2 this section commits a class D felony.

3 (5) ADMINISTRATION OF PENALTIES.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
5 Homeland Security shall enforce the assessment
6 and collection of any penalty described in this
7 subsection.

8 (B) REFERRAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

9 If any person fails to pay an assessment of a
10 civil penalty under this section after it has be-
11 come final, the Secretary may refer the matter
12 to the Attorney General of the United States
13 for collection in any appropriate district court
14 of the United States.

15 (e) DEFINITION OF TERRITORIAL SEA.—In this sec-
16 tion, the term “territorial sea” has the meaning given such
17 term in Presidential Proclamation 5928.

18 **SEC. 5. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.**

19 Section 9(b) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from
20 Ships (33 U.S.C. 1908(b)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “\$25,000” and
22 inserting “\$50,000”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (2) by striking “\$5,000” and
24 inserting “\$10,000”.

1 **SEC. 6. PASSENGER VESSEL SECURITY AND SAFETY RE-**
2 **QUIREMENTS.**

3 (a) **MEDICAL STANDARDS.—**

4 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 3507 is amended—

5 (A) by striking subsections (k) and (l); and

6 (B) by inserting after subsection (j) the

7 following:

8 “(k) **MEDICAL STANDARDS.—**

9 “(1) **IN GENERAL.—**The owner of a vessel to
10 which this subchapter applies shall ensure that—

11 “(A) a physician is always present and
12 available to treat any passengers who may be
13 on board the vessel in the event of an emer-
14 gency situation;

15 “(B) there is a sufficient number of quali-
16 fied medical staff on board the vessel to treat
17 the number of passengers who may be on board
18 the vessel, as determined by the Secretary by
19 regulation;

20 “(C) if a United States citizen dies on
21 board the vessel and the citizen’s next of kin re-
22 quests that the citizen’s body return to the
23 United States on board the vessel, such request
24 is granted;

1 “(D) every crew member on board the ves-
2 sel has received basic life support training and
3 is certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

4 “(E) automated external defibrillators
5 are—

6 “(i) placed throughout the vessel in
7 clearly designated locations;

8 “(ii) available for passenger access in
9 the event of an emergency; and

10 “(iii) capable of contacting cruise
11 medical staff through tracing or callbox ca-
12 pability; and

13 “(F) the initial safety briefing given to the
14 passengers on board the vessel includes—

15 “(i) the location of the vessel’s med-
16 ical facilities;

17 “(ii) the appropriate steps passengers
18 should follow during a medical emergency;

19 “(iii) the location and proper use of
20 automated external defibrillators; and

21 “(iv) the proper way to report an inci-
22 dent or to seek security assistance in the
23 event of a medical emergency.

24 “(2) PHYSICIAN DEFINED.—In this subsection,
25 the term ‘physician’ means a medical doctor who—

1 “(A) has at least 3 years of post-graduate,
2 post-registration experience in general and
3 emergency medicine; or

4 “(B) is board certified in emergency medi-
5 cine, family medicine, or internal medicine.

6 “(3) QUALIFIED MEDICAL STAFF DEFINED.—In
7 this subsection, the term ‘qualified medical staff’
8 means a medical professional certified in ACLS and
9 ATLS training.”.

10 (2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by
11 paragraph (1)(B) shall apply on and after the date
12 that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of
13 this Act.

14 (b) MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLIES TO PREVENT SEXU-
15 ALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.—Section 5307(d)(1) is
16 further amended by inserting “(taking into consideration
17 the length of the voyage and the number of passengers
18 and crewmembers that the vessel can accommodate)” after
19 “sexual assault”.

20 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION OF CRUISE VESSEL.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The term “cruise vessel”
23 means a passenger vessel that—

24 (A) is authorized to carry at least 250 pas-
25 sengers; and

1 (B) has onboard sleeping facilities for each
2 passenger.

3 (2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “cruise vessel”
4 does not include—

5 (A) a vessel of the United States operated
6 by the Federal Government;

7 (B) a vessel owned and operated by the
8 government of a State; or

9 (C) a vessel owned by a local government.

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