

Public Law 95-61
95th Congress

An Act

To authorize appropriations for the United States Coast Guard for fiscal year 1978, and for other purposes.

July 1, 1977

[H.R. 6823]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for necessary expenses of the United States Coast Guard for fiscal year 1978, as follows:

U.S. Coast Guard.
Appropriation
authorization.

(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, including expenses related to the Capehart housing debt reduction: \$887,521,000;

(2) For the acquisition, construction, rebuilding, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto: \$330,300,000, to remain available until expended;

(3) For the alteration or removal of bridges over navigable waters of the United States, constituting obstructions to navigation: \$19,100,000, to remain available until expended; and

(4) For research, development, test, and evaluation: \$25,600,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 2. For fiscal year 1978, the Coast Guard is authorized an end strength for active duty personnel of 39,145: *Provided*, That the ceiling shall not include members of the Ready Reserve called to active duty under the authority of section 764 of title 14, United States Code.

Active duty
personnel
strength,
authorization.

SEC. 3. For fiscal year 1978, average military training student loads for the Coast Guard are authorized as follows:

Military training
student loads,
authorization.

(1) recruit and special training: 3,872 students;

(2) flight training: 109 students;

(3) professional training in military and civilian institutions: 415 students; and

(4) officer acquisitions: 1,110 students.

SEC. 4. Title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by adding a new section to chapter 17, after section 658, as follows:

“§ 659. Merger of obligated balances with current appropriations

14 USC 659.

“Amounts equal to the obligated balances against appropriations for ‘Operating expenses’ and for ‘Reserve training’, for the two fiscal years preceding the current fiscal year, shall be transferred to and merged with current fiscal year appropriations for ‘Operating expenses’ and ‘Reserve training’, respectively. The obligated balances for the period commencing on July 1, 1976, and ending on September 30, 1976, may be merged into the respective accounts for fiscal years 1977 and 1978. Such merged appropriations shall be available as one fund, for the payment of obligations properly incurred against such prior year appropriations and against the current fiscal year appropriations. Coast Guard accounting shall reflect year identity of the merged obligated balances until such obligated balances are transferred to a consolidated account as prescribed in section 1 of the Act of July 25, 1956, as amended (31 U.S.C. 701).” and

(2) by amending the analysis of chapter 17 by inserting at the end thereof the following item:

"659. Merger of obligated balances with current appropriations."

SEC. 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, available funds appropriated to or for the use of the Coast Guard for "Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements" may be used to pay for part of the construction and other capital costs of a sewage treatment plant to be built, operated, and owned by the North Marin County Water District (California) and to be used by Coast Guard facilities located in the vicinity of Point Reyes Station, California.

SEC. 6. The Coast Guard is authorized to accept and retain funds from the city of Baltimore, Maryland, in payment for Coast Guard facilities to be removed by the city incident to the improvement of Hawkins Point Road, the funds to be available, until expended, for the construction of replacement facilities. Any funds not obligated by the end of fiscal year 1980 shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 7. (a) The last sentence of section 4426 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (46 U.S.C. 404), as amended, is further amended by striking out "July 11, 1978" and inserting in lieu thereof "January 1, 1983".

(b) The first section of the Act of June 20, 1936 (relating to certain seagoing vessels) (46 U.S.C. 367), as amended, is further amended by striking out "July 11, 1978" and inserting in lieu thereof "January 1, 1983".

(c) Subsection (b) of the first section of the Act of August 27, 1935 (relating to load lines for certain vessels) (46 U.S.C. 88(b)), as amended, is further amended by striking out "July 11, 1978" and inserting in lieu thereof "January 1, 1983".

SEC. 8. (a) The Commandant of the Coast Guard is authorized to assist the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in providing medical emergency helicopter transportation services to civilians. Any resources provided under this section shall be under such terms and conditions, including reimbursement, as the Commandant of the Coast Guard deems appropriate and shall be subject to the following specific limitations:

(1) Assistance may be provided only in areas where the Coast Guard units able to provide such assistance are regularly assigned, and Coast Guard units shall not be transferred from one area to another for the purpose of providing such assistance.

(2) Assistance may be provided only to the extent that it does not interfere with the performance of the Coast Guard mission.

(3) The provision of assistance shall not cause any increase in funds required for the operation of the Coast Guard.

Medical
emergency
helicopter
transportation
services.
Federal agencies,
cooperation.
14 USC 141 note.
Limitations.

(b) No individual (or his estate) who is authorized by the Coast Guard to perform services under a program established pursuant to subsection (a), and who is acting within the scope of his duties, shall be liable for injury to, or loss of property or personal injury or death which may be caused incident to providing such services.

Liability.

Approved July 1, 1977.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 95-308 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries) and No. 95-418 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 95-200 accompanying S. 1250 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation) and No. 95-272 (Comm. of Conference).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 123 (1977):

May 16, considered and passed House.

May 25, considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 1250.

June 15, Senate agreed to conference report.

June 21, House agreed to conference report.