

tion of persons organized under the laws of
or having its principal place of business in
a foreign country; and

(B) includes—

(i) any person owned by, controlled
by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direc-
tion of an entity listed in subparagraph
(A);

(ii) any person, wherever located, who
acts as an agent, representative, or em-
ployee of an entity listed in subparagraph
(A);

(iii) any person who acts in any other
capacity at the order, request, or under the
direction or control, of an entity listed in
subparagraph (A), or of a person whose
activities are directly or indirectly super-
vised, directed, controlled, financed, or
subsidized in whole or in majority part by
an entity listed in subparagraph (A);

(iv) any person who directly or indi-
rectly through any contract, arrangement,
understanding, relationship, or otherwise,
owns 25 percent or more of the equity in-

1 terests of an entity listed in subparagraph
2 (A);

3 (v) any person with significant re-
4 sponsibility to control, manage, or direct
5 an entity listed in subparagraph (A);

6 (vi) any person, wherever located, who
7 is a citizen or resident of a country con-
8 trolled by an entity listed in subparagraph
9 (A); or

10 (vii) any corporation, partnership, as-
11 sociation, or other organization organized
12 under the laws of a country controlled by
13 an entity listed in subparagraph (A).

14 (6) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term
15 “foreign entity of concern” means any foreign entity
16 that is—

17 (A) designated as a foreign terrorist orga-
18 nization by the Secretary of State under section
19 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
20 U.S.C. 1189);

21 (B) included on the list of specially des-
22 ignated nationals and blocked persons main-
23 tained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control
24 of the Department of the Treasury;

1 (C) owned by, controlled by, or subject to
2 the jurisdiction or direction of a government of
3 a foreign country of concern;

4 (D) alleged by the Attorney General to
5 have been involved in activities for which a con-
6 viction was obtained under—

7 (i) chapter 37 of title 18, United
8 States Code (commonly known as the “Es-
9 pionage Act”) (18 U.S.C. 792 et seq.);

10 (ii) section 951 or 1030 of title 18,
11 United States Code;

12 (iii) chapter 90 of title 18, United
13 States Code (commonly known as the
14 “Economic Espionage Act of 1996”);

15 (iv) the Arms Export Control Act (22
16 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.);

17 (v) section 224, 225, 226, 227, or 236
18 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42
19 U.S.C. 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, and
20 2284);

21 (vi) the Export Control Reform Act of
22 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.); or

23 (vii) the International Emergency
24 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et
25 seq.);

1 (E) designated by the Federal Maritime
2 Commission as a controlled carrier under chap-
3 ter 407 of title 46, United States Code;

4 (F) found by the Federal Maritime Com-
5 mission to be practicing unfavorable conditions
6 in foreign trade under chapter 421 or 423 of
7 title 46, United States Code; or

8 (G) determined by the Maritime Adminis-
9 trator, in consultation with the Secretary of De-
10 fense, the Secretary of State, the Director of
11 National Intelligence, and the Chair of the Fed-
12 eral Maritime Commission, to be engaged in un-
13 authorized conduct that is detrimental to the
14 national security or foreign policy of the United
15 States.

16 (7) VESSEL OF THE UNITED STATES.—The
17 term “vessel of the United States” has the meaning
18 given that term in section 116 of title 46, United
19 States Code.

20 **TITLE I—OVERSIGHT AND**
21 **ACCOUNTABILITY**

22 **SEC. 101. MARITIME SECURITY ADVISOR; MARITIME SECU-**
23 **RITY BOARD.**

24 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 504 of part A of sub-
25 title V of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking the chapter heading and insert-
2 ing the following: “**OVERSIGHT AND AC-**
3 **COUNTABILITY**”; and

4 (2) by striking section 50401 and inserting the
5 following:

6 “§ 50401. **Maritime Security Advisor; Maritime Secu-**
7 **rity Board**

8 “(a) MARITIME SECURITY ADVISOR.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
10 after the date of enactment of this section, the
11 President shall appoint a Special Advisor to the
12 President (to be known as the ‘Maritime Security
13 Advisor’) for coordinating national maritime affairs
14 and policy, including developing, updating, and im-
15 plementing the National Maritime Strategy as re-
16 quired under section 50114 of this title.

17 “(2) DUTIES.—The Maritime Security Advisor
18 appointed under paragraph (1) shall serve as the
19 Chair of the Maritime Security Board, shall be the
20 principal advisor to the President on all issues re-
21 lated to the maritime industry, shipbuilding, and
22 ship repair, and shall be responsible for developing,
23 updating, and implementing the National Maritime
24 Strategy under section 50114 of this title within and
25 across the Federal Government.

1 “(3) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.—The Mar-
2 itime Security Advisor shall have a seat on the Na-
3 tional Security Council.

4 “(4) OFFICE OF THE MARITIME SECURITY AD-
5 VISOR.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established in
7 the Executive Office of the President, an Office
8 of the Maritime Security Advisor. The Maritime
9 Security Advisor described in this subsection
10 shall be the head of such Office.

11 “(B) EMPLOYEES; CONTRACTS.—In car-
12 rying out the functions under this section, the
13 Maritime Security Advisor is authorized to—

14 “(i) appoint such officers and employ-
15 ees as the Maritime Security Advisor may
16 deem necessary to perform the functions
17 now or hereafter vested in the Maritime
18 Security Advisor and to prescribe their du-
19 ties; and

20 “(ii) enter into contracts and other
21 arrangements for studies, analyses, and
22 other services with public agencies and
23 with private persons, organizations, or in-
24 stitutions, and make such payments as the

1 Maritime Security Advisor deems necessary
2 to carry out the provisions of this section.

3 “(b) MARITIME SECURITY BOARD.—Not later than
4 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the
5 President shall establish a board, to be known as the ‘Mar-
6 itime Security Board’ (in this section referred to as the
7 ‘Board’).

8 “(1) COMPOSITION.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall be
10 comprised of the following individuals and rep-
11 resentatives:

12 “(i) The Maritime Security Advisor
13 described in subsection (a).

14 “(ii) The Maritime Administrator.

15 “(iii) The Commandant of the Coast
16 Guard.

17 “(iv) The Secretary of the Navy.

18 “(v) The Commander of the United
19 States Transportation Command.

20 “(vi) The Chair of the Federal Mari-
21 time Commission.

22 “(vii) The Assistant Secretary of the
23 Army for Civil Works.

24 “(viii) The Commander of the Mili-
25 tary Sealift Command.

1 “(ix) The Commander of Naval Sea
2 Systems Command.

3 “(x) The chief United States delegate
4 to the International Maritime Organiza-
5 tion.

6 “(xi) The Under Secretary of Com-
7 merce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

8 “(xii) The Commissioner for Customs
9 and Border Protection.

10 “(xiii) The Director of the Office of
11 Management and Budget, or their des-
12 ignee.

13 “(xiv) The Secretary of Transpor-
14 tation, or their designee.

15 “(xv) The Secretary of Homeland Se-
16 curity, or their designee.

17 “(xvi) The Secretary of State, or their
18 designee.

19 “(xvii) The Secretary of Labor, or
20 their designee.

21 “(xviii) The Secretary of Agriculture,
22 or their designee.

23 “(xix) The Secretary of Commerce, or
24 their designee.

1 “(xx) The Secretary of the Treasury,
2 or their designee.

3 “(xxi) The Administrator of the Envi-
4 ronmental Protection Agency, or their des-
5 ignee.

6 “(xxii) The United States Trade Rep-
7 resentative, or their designee.

8 “(xxiii) The Administrator of the
9 United States Agency for International
10 Development, or their designee.

11 “(xxiv) From the Department of De-
12 fense—

13 “(I) the Secretary of Defense, or
14 their designee;

15 “(II) a representative of the
16 Army, as appointed by the Secretary
17 of Defense;

18 “(III) a representative of the Air
19 Force, as appointed by the Secretary
20 of Defense; and

21 “(IV) a representative of the
22 Navy, as appointed by the Secretary
23 of Defense.

1 “(B) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The individ-
2 uals and representatives listed in clauses (xiii)
3 through (xxiv) shall be nonvoting members.

4 “(C) CHAIR.—The Maritime Security Ad-
5 visor shall serve as the Chair of the Board.

6 “(2) DUTIES.—Consistent with the National
7 Maritime Strategy under section 50114 of this title,
8 the Board shall carry out the following duties:

9 “(A) Supporting the development of the
10 marine transportation system of the United
11 States, including—

12 “(i) assessing the adequacy of the ma-
13 rine transportation system (including
14 ports, waterways, channels, and their inter-
15 modal connections);

16 “(ii) promoting the integration of the
17 marine transportation system with other
18 modes of transportation and other uses of
19 the marine environment; and

20 “(iii) coordinating, improving the co-
21 ordination of, and making recommenda-
22 tions with regard to Federal policies that
23 impact the marine transportation system.

24 “(B) Establishing policy priorities relating
25 to, and conducting independent oversight over,

1 the financial assistance programs under part C
2 of subtitle V of this title, including—

3 “(i) not later than 1 year after the
4 date of enactment of the SHIPS for Amer-
5 ica Act of 2024 and annually thereafter,
6 establishing targets for the number, type,
7 and requirements of vessels to be included
8 in each of—

9 “(I) the Maritime Security Fleet
10 (consistent with the most recent Mo-
11 bility Capability Requirements Study
12 produced by United States Transpor-
13 tation Command);

14 “(II) the Cable Security Fleet;

15 “(III) the Tanker Security Fleet
16 (consistent with the most recent Mo-
17 bility Capability Requirements Study
18 produced by United States Transpor-
19 tation Command);

20 “(IV) the Strategic Commercial
21 Fleet; and

22 “(V) the Shipbuilding Financial
23 Incentives Program;

24 “(ii) submitting annual recommenda-
25 tions to the appropriate committees of

1 Congress for any needed changes in the
2 authorized number of vessels eligible to
3 participate in the programs under part C
4 of subtitle V of this title; and

5 “(iii) conducting oversight of the ad-
6 ministration of such financial assistance
7 programs to ensure such programs support
8 the strategic sealift objectives and policy of
9 the United States, as established in section
10 59101 of this title.

11 “(C) Supporting the Maritime Adminis-
12 trator in all efforts to conduct independent
13 oversight of passenger and cargo preference re-
14 quirements and supporting efforts to enable
15 cargo to be carried on vessels of the United
16 States, including—

17 “(i) conducting oversight and coordi-
18 nating interagency efforts to comply with
19 cargo preference requirements established
20 under chapter 553 of this title and section
21 2631 of title 10;

22 “(ii) independently verifying that all
23 Federal agencies follow the requirements
24 for cargoes procured, furnished, or fi-
25 nanced by the United States Government

1 under section 55305 of this title, and noti-
2 fying the appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress of any identified violations of the re-
4 quirements of such section;

5 “(iii) conducting outreach among non-
6 governmental stakeholders, including pri-
7 vate industry, to encourage more cargo to
8 be moved on vessels of the United States;

9 “(iv) developing recommendations for
10 regulations to be issued by Federal agen-
11 cies to preference the movement of cargo
12 on vessels of the United States; and

13 “(v) submitting recommendations to
14 the appropriate committees of Congress for
15 changes to laws relating to passenger and
16 cargo preferences for the purpose of estab-
17 lishing a more robust fleet of vessels of the
18 United States.

19 “(D) Conducting independent oversight
20 and developing guidance and recommendations
21 related to the enforcement of the requirements
22 of chapters 121 and 551 of this title.

23 “(E) Coordinating national efforts to de-
24 velop a robust maritime workforce that en-

1 hances the national security and strategic sea-
2 lift readiness of the United States, including—

3 “(i) coordinating and conducting over-
4 sight of interagency efforts and partner-
5 ships with the maritime industry and
6 qualified labor organizations to recruit,
7 train, and retain qualified licensed and un-
8 licensed merchant mariners; and

9 “(ii) coordinating and conducting
10 oversight of interagency efforts and part-
11 nerships with the shipbuilding industry to
12 recruit, train, and retain qualified workers
13 in the shipbuilding industry of the United
14 States.

15 “(F) Establishing national priorities for re-
16 search and development of next-generation tech-
17 nologies to enhance United States leadership in
18 the shipbuilding and maritime industries, in-
19 cluding through the Center for Maritime Inno-
20 vation established under section 50307.

21 “(G) Coordinating interagency efforts to
22 ensure vessels of the United States operating in
23 international commerce are privileged in regula-
24 tion, taxation, fees, insurance, and policy com-
25 pared to foreign vessels conducting trade with

1 a United States-domiciled entity, while remain-
2 ing consistent with the international obligations
3 of the United States.

4 “(H) Coordinating efforts to protect ves-
5 sels of the United States operating in inter-
6 national or domestic commerce from physical
7 and cybersecurity threats.

8 “(I) Conducting oversight of the use of
9 funds from the Maritime Security Trust Fund
10 established under section 9512 of the Internal
11 Revenue Code of 1986, and making rec-
12 ommendations to Congress for expenditures
13 from the Trust Fund.

14 “(J) Conducting studies on subjects re-
15 lated to the maritime industry and international
16 shipping, and undertaking other efforts related
17 to strengthening the maritime security of the
18 United States.

19 “(K) Carrying out other duties, as as-
20 signed by the President in consultation with the
21 Maritime Security Advisor, related to the mari-
22 time industry, shipbuilding, ship repair, stra-
23 tegic sealift, and the marine transportation sys-
24 tem of the United States.