

1 **“§ 59107. Report on privilege**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2025,
3 the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the
4 Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Federal Maritime
5 Commission, and the Director of the Office of Manage-
6 ment and Budget, shall submit to the appropriate commit-
7 tees of Congress a report including ways to ensure vessels
8 of the United States operating in foreign commerce are
9 privileged in regulation, taxation, fees, insurance, and pol-
10 icy compared to foreign vessels conducting trade with a
11 United States domiciled entity, while remaining consistent
12 with the international obligations of the United States.

13 “(b) CONTENTS.—In submitting the report under
14 subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation shall in-
15 clude options for regulating trade with foreign vessels in
16 order to sustain and grow the Maritime Security Fleet
17 under chapter 531 of this title, the Cable Security Fleet
18 under chapter 532 of this title, the Tanker Security Fleet
19 under chapter 534 of this title, the Strategic Commercial
20 Fleet under chapter 536 of this title, and other vessels
21 of the United States operating in foreign commerce.

22 **“§ 59108. Report on requirements for sealift force de-**
23 **ployment**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2025,
25 the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate
26 committees of Congress a report—

1 “(1) on the military sealift requirements of the
2 Armed Forces of the United States; and

3 “(2) in consultation with the Secretary of
4 Transportation, containing recommendations for how
5 to maintain, improve, or expand the Maritime Secu-
6 rity Fleet under chapter 531 of this title, the Cable
7 Security Fleet under chapter 532 of this title, the
8 Tanker Security Fleet under chapter 534 of this
9 title, the Strategic Commercial Fleet under chapter
10 536 of this title, and the Ready Reserve Force com-
11 ponent of the National Defense Reserve Fleet under
12 section 57100 of this title, to meet the military sea-
13 lift needs of the United States.

14 “(b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a)
15 shall include an assessment of, and recommendations for
16 how to enable, making the Ready Reserve Force compo-
17 nent of the National Defense Reserve Fleet under section
18 57100 of this title active in trade through a public-private
19 partnership that enables financing, building, manning, op-
20 erating, maintaining, and repairing the vessels of such
21 Fleet, while guaranteeing assured effective control and
22 surge capacity in times of crisis or war.

1 **“§ 59109. Assessment on marine infrastructure readi-**
2 **ness**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2026,
4 and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretaries of Defense,
5 Homeland Security, Commerce, and Transportation shall
6 provide the appropriate committees of Congress an assess-
7 ment on—

8 “(1) the readiness and sufficiency of the marine
9 infrastructure, shipping industry, and shipbuilding
10 industry of the United States, and vessels of the
11 United States, to meet the economic and national se-
12 curity strategic sealift needs of the United States
13 and operate in a contested environment;

14 “(2) the vulnerability of the economy of the
15 United States to coercion or control from strategic
16 competitors of the United States through the ocean-
17 going trades; and

18 “(3)(A) critical infrastructure and cybersecurity
19 vulnerabilities in—

20 “(i) the maritime transportation system of
21 the United States, including ports, shipyards,
22 repair yards, inland waterways, and vessels of
23 the United States; and

24 “(ii) foreign investment in marine infra-
25 structure; and

1 “(B) how to reduce the risks of such
2 vulnerabilities.

3 “(b) SECRETARY OF STATE.—Not later than March
4 1, 2026, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of
5 State shall provide the appropriate committees of Con-
6 gress an assessment on—

7 “(1) arrangements and agreements between the
8 United States and countries that are defense treaty
9 allies for access to the global marine transportation
10 infrastructure, such as ports, harbors, and water-
11 ways; and

12 “(2) assurances, arrangements, and agreements
13 between the United States and countries that are
14 defense treaty allies to augment United States sea-
15 lift capabilities in times of crisis and war.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
17 for subtitle V of title 46, United States Code, is amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

“PART H—STRATEGIC SEALIFT”.

19 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL FREIGHT STRATEGIC PLAN.**

20 Section 70102(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
21 amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” after
23 the semicolon;

24 (2) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at
25 the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(18) consideration of United States strategic
3 sealift objectives and strategies established under
4 section 59101 of title 46; and

5 “(19) consideration of maritime networks in
6 multimodal freight corridors.”.

7 **SEC. 303. FOREIGN SHIPPING PRACTICES; CONTROLLED**
8 **CARRIERS.**

9 (a) FOREIGN SHIPPING PRACTICES.—Section
10 42301(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or pas-
12 sengers” after “transportation of cargo”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “or pas-
14 sengers” after “carriage of cargo”.

15 (b) CONTROLLED CARRIERS.—Chapter 407 of title
16 46, United States Code, is amended—

17 (1) in section 40701—

18 (A) in subsection (a)—

19 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “or”
20 at the end;

21 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking the
22 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(3) arrange or provide passenger transpor-
2 tation at a fare that is below a just and reasonable
3 level.”;

4 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “rule, or
5 regulation” and inserting “rule, regulation, or
6 fare”;

7 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “rule, or
8 regulation” and inserting “rule, regulation, or
9 fare”; and

10 (D) in subsection (d), by striking “rule, or
11 regulation” and inserting “rule, regulation, or
12 fare”;

13 (2) in section 40702(b)—

14 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
15 by striking “rule, or regulation” and inserting
16 “rule, regulation, or fare”;

17 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “rate or
18 charge” and inserting “rate, charge, or fare”;
19 and

20 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “rule, or
21 regulation” and inserting “rule, regulation, or
22 fare”;

23 (3) in section 40703, by striking “a rate,
24 charge,” and inserting “a rate, fare, charge,”; and

25 (4) in section 40704—

1 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “rule, or
2 regulation” and inserting “rule, regulation, or
3 fare”;

4 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “rule, or
5 regulation” and inserting “rule, regulation, or
6 fare”;

7 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “rule, or
8 regulation” and inserting “rule, regulation, or
9 fare” each place the term appears;

10 (D) in subsection (d)—

11 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “rule,
12 or regulation” and inserting “rule, regula-
13 tion, or fare” each place the term appears;
14 and

15 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking
16 “rule, or regulation” and inserting “rule,
17 regulation, or fare” each place the term
18 appears; and

19 (E) in subsection (e), by striking “rule, or
20 regulation” and inserting “rule, regulation, or
21 fare” each place the term appears.

1 **TITLE IV—VESSELS OF THE**
2 **UNITED STATES IN INTER-**
3 **NATIONAL COMMERCE**

4 **Subtitle A—Strategic Sealift**
5 **Programs**

6 **SEC. 401. STRATEGIC COMMERCIAL FLEET.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part C of subtitle V of title 46,
8 United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter
9 535 the following:

10 **“CHAPTER 536—STRATEGIC COMMERCIAL**
11 **FLEET**

“Sec.

“53601. Definitions.

“53602. Establishment of Strategic Commercial Fleet.

“53603. Operating agreements.

“53604. Payments.

“53605. National security requirements.

“53606. Regulations.

12 **“§ 53601. Definitions**

13 “In this chapter:

14 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
15 trator’ means the Maritime Administrator.

16 “(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
17 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
18 gress’ means—

19 “(A) the Committee on Armed Services,
20 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
21 Transportation, and the Committee on Appro-
22 priations of the Senate; and

1 “(B) the Committee on Armed Services,
2 the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
3 structure, and the Committee on Appropriations
4 of the House of Representatives.

5 “(3) COASTWISE TRADE.—The term ‘coastwise
6 trade’ means commerce or trade that is subject to
7 the requirements of section 55102.

8 “(4) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
9 tity’ means—

10 “(A) any owner or operator of a vessel eli-
11 gible under section 53602(d); or

12 “(B) a bid team consisting of—

13 “(i) an entity eligible under subpara-
14 graph (A);

15 “(ii) any shipyard of the United
16 States with the ability, experience, finan-
17 cial resources, and other qualifications nec-
18 essary for the construction or repair of a
19 vessel eligible for inclusion in the Strategic
20 Commercial Fleet; and

21 “(iii) any other legal entity that is not
22 a foreign entity of concern.

23 “(5) FLEET.—The term ‘Fleet’ means the Stra-
24 tegic Commercial Fleet established under section
25 53602.