

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2136

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the membership of the Commandant of the Coast Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2021

Mr. CRIST (for himself and Mr. PALAZZO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the membership of the Commandant of the Coast Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMANDANT OF THE COAST**
4 **GUARD ON THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.**

5 (a) MEMBERSHIP ON THE JOINT CHIEFS OF
6 STAFF.—Section 151(a) of title 10, United States Code,
7 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
8 graph:

1 “(9) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.”.

2 (b) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN; GRADE AND
3 RANK.—Section 152 of such title is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B) by striking “or the
5 Commandant of the Marine Corps” and inserting
6 “the Commandant of the Marine Corps, or the Com-
7 mandant of the Coast Guard”; and

8 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “Navy” and
9 inserting “Navy or Coast Guard”.

10 (c) VICE CHAIRMAN.—Section 154(f) of such title is
11 amended by striking “Navy” and inserting “Navy or
12 Coast Guard”.

13 (d) INCLUSION ON THE JOINT STAFF.—Section
14 155(a) of such title is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
17 (A), by striking “(other than the Coast
18 Guard)”;

19 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
20 “and” at the end;

21 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
22 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (D) by adding at the end the following new
24 subparagraph:

25 “(D) the Coast Guard.”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “Secretary of
2 the military department having jurisdiction over that
3 armed force” and inserting “Secretary concerned”.

4 (e) DUTIES AS MEMBER OF JOINT STAFF.—Section
5 302 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by striking “The President may” and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(a) The President may”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “(b)(1) The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall
12 also perform the duties prescribed for the Commandant
13 as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under section
14 151 of title 10.

15 “(2) To the extent that such action does not impair
16 the independence of the Commandant in the performance
17 of the Commandant’s duties as a member of the Joint
18 Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant shall inform the Sec-
19 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard is op-
20 erating regarding military advice rendered by members of
21 the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters affecting such depart-
22 ment.

23 “(3) Subject to the authority, direction, and control
24 of the Secretary of Defense, the Commandant shall keep
25 the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard

1 is operating fully informed of significant military oper-
2 ations affecting the duties and responsibilities of such Sec-
3 retary.”.

