

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3205

To repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2021

Mr. MCCLINTOCK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade,  
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 “Open America’s  
5 Waters Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON COASTWISE**  
7 **TRADE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12112(a) of title 46,  
9 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1       “(a) IN GENERAL.—A coastwise endorsement may be  
2 issued for a vessel that qualifies under the laws of the  
3 United States to engage in the coastwise trade.”.

4       (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of  
6 the United States Coast Guard shall issue regulations to  
7 implement the amendment made by subsection (a) that  
8 require all vessels permitted to engage in the coastwise  
9 trade to meet all appropriate safety and security require-  
10 ments.

11       (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

12           (1) TANK VESSEL CONSTRUCTION STAND-  
13 ARDS.—Section 3703a(c)(1)(C) of title 46, United  
14 States Code, is amended by striking “and is quali-  
15 fied for documentation as a wrecked vessel under  
16 section 12112 of this title”.

17           (2) LIQUIFIED GAS TANKERS.—Section 12120  
18 of such title is amended by striking “, if the vessel—  
19 ” and all that follows and inserting a period.

20           (3) SMALL PASSENGER VESSELS.—Section  
21 12121(b) of such title is amended by striking  
22 “12112,”.

23           (4) LOSS OF COASTWISE TRADE PRIVILEGES.—  
24 Section 12132 of such title is repealed.

1           (5) OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSELS.—Section  
2       12117(b) of such title is amended by striking “sec-  
3       tions 12103, 12132, and 50501” and inserting “sec-  
4       tions 12103 and 50501”.

5           (6) OPTIONAL REGULATORY MEASUREMENT.—  
6       Section 14305(a)(6) of such title is amended by  
7       striking “sections 12118 and 12132” and inserting  
8       “section 12118”.

9           (7) COURT SALES OF UNDOCUMENTED VES-  
10      SELS.—Section 31329(b) of such title is amended—

11                (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “;” and  
12                inserting “; and”;

13                (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and”  
14                and inserting a period; and

15                (C) by striking paragraph (3).

16           (8) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
17      tions for chapter 121 of title 46, United States  
18      Code, is amended by striking the item relating to  
19      section 12132.

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